

STOURBRIDGE CHRONICLE



Thursday, November 27, 2014

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X-MAS STAR

Wagner meets his fans at big switch-on



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FRESH ROLE

Actor shoots historic drama at museum



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Decision to select leader is imminent

THE proposed new leader of Dudley Council will be announced at a meeting tonight (Thursday).

The borough's controlling Labour group is meeting to discuss a successor for Councillor David Sparks.

Whoever takes on the job of Labour group leader will also be put forward as the next leader of the local authority.

Councillor Sparks announced his intention to step down from his role leading the party and the authority last week.

Focus

The controlling group plan to select a new leader after Councillor Sparks formally stands aside at the meeting.

Nominations have already been coming in ahead of the meeting taking place on Thursday evening.

Councillor Sparks was planning to relinquish his position as council leader at a meeting at Dudley Council House on Monday.

The Labour party, which has a majority in the council chamber, will then nominate its leader to head up the authority.

Councillor Sparks is giving up the role to focus his time as chairman of national body the Local Government Association.

Lenny lends voice to zoo

DUDLEY'S Lenny Henry has recorded a 'voice over' for a film to be screened at a £250,000 new attraction at Dudley Zoo.

A documentary is being created on the history of the zoo and its Tecton enclosures. It will be showcased when the zoo's new Tecton Interpretation Centre opens in the spring, featuring the dulcet Dudley tones of the popular actor and comedian who was made a Freeman of the borough last year.

SKATEPARK IS READY TO ROLL

Report by Heather Large

A GROUP behind a new £200,000 indoor skatepark have been congratulated in the House of Commons ahead of its official opening in Stourbridge this weekend.

Unit3Sixty in Mill Race Lane will be unveiled on Saturday after work to transform a former industrial unit is completed. BMX riding, skateboarding and scooter riding will be among the activities at the centre.

Stourbridge MP Margot James congratulated firefighter Gavin Pardoe and his team for their work on the project. She has been a keen supporter since its inception and helped the group secure funding from the Charity Bank, Sport England and other sources.

Festive fun is getting under way

THERE will be all the fun of the fair in Stourbridge town centre during Saturday afternoon, leading up to the Christmas lights switch-on at 5pm.

Events in Crown Square and Fountain Square from noon include free funfair rides, a visit by Father Christmas, plus a performance by The Empty Can, of Black Country Anthems fame, Granary Turismo, and the Black Country Ukulele Band. There will be a Christmas craft market and festive food festival.

Meanwhile, visitors can admire eye-catching festive decorations at a Christmas tree festival this Friday and Saturday.

St Thomas's Church on Market Street in Stourbridge will be filled with 30 colourful trees decorated by organisations and individuals. Those who have contributed trees include Wedmore Women's Institute, Wollaston Wives Group, The Children's Society and members of the congregation.

The festival aims to raise funds for ongoing repairs to the church, which is Grade I listed and was built in 1736.

The festival is open from 10am to 5pm tomorrow (Friday) and from 10am to 7pm on Saturday 7pm. Mulled wine and mince pies will be available.

"I am absolutely delighted for Gavin and his team who, through sheer hard work and dedication, have built a magnificent new skatepark," she said.

"After Ramparts closed there was a real sense of loss among young people locally, and it has been wonderful to support the development of Unit3Sixty's fantastic facility."

Draw

"I know that the park will attract skaters from across the whole West Midlands, and I am very much looking forward to attending the official opening."

Rob Wilson MP, Minister for Civil Society, congratulated Gavin and his team, adding "I understand that it is a state-of-the-art skatepark that will draw in people from right across the West Midlands."

Tesco, Waitrose and the Ryemarket in Stourbridge and Black Country businessman Geoff Hill have also supported the scheme, which won the backing of Dudley Council's deputy leader, Councillor Pete Pardoe.

The finishing touches are being put to the £200,000 indoor skatepark ahead of its opening on Saturday.

A 'skateboard jam' took place last week giving some skaters their first chance to try out the ramps. They also had the chance to watch professional skate teams in action.

Mr Pardoe said: "The building of the indoor skatepark is being carried out by 9C Ramps, famous for the Nike Tunnel Jam and the Nike Pool Party. No expense has been spared to ensure Unit3Sixty becomes the best indoor skatepark in the UK."

The scheme has received £10,000 from council-run community forums and a £75,000 loan from the Charity Bank.



Skatepark boss Gavin Pardoe with managers Richard Donley and Serena Pardoe

Calls from family lead to review of killing

A FRESH inquiry will be held in the wake of the killing of Halesowen schoolgirl Christina Edkins.

NHS England confirmed a far-reaching review will take place following calls from the family of the 16-year-old, who was stabbed to death by paranoid schizophrenic Phillip Simelane on a bus in Birmingham while on her way to school.

An initial inquiry by Birmingham Cross City Clinical Commissioning Group said Christina's death could have been prevented after it emerged Simelane had been released from prison with no supervision only months before the attack.

The family called for the full facts and those responsible for failings to be identified.

Halesowen and Rowley Regis MP James Morris said a national inquiry would add 'more teeth' to demands for improvement.

NHS England say a fresh inquiry would be held after the Leasowes High School pupil's family wrote to them.

A spokesman said: "NHS England can confirm that a letter has been received and subsequently a decision has been made for a further review."

Simelane was detained indefinitely in a psychiatric hospital.

1,000 sign MP's petition

MORE than 1,000 people have put their name to a petition opposing plans to close Dudley Police Station to the public.

Under the proposal put forward by West Midlands Police, the front counter at the station in New Street will be shut.

Dudley North MP Ian Austin started a petition, both paper and online, urging police bosses to rethink the proposal.

■ Counter cuts — see page 5

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Lee Watton: 01384 353230
lee.watton@expressandstar.co.uk
Heather Large: 01384 353203
heather.large@expressandstar.co.uk
Alex Ross: 01384 353207
alex.ross@expressandstar.co.uk
Andrew Turton: 01384 353202
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Katy-Rose Meaney: 01384 353201

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Sports:
Tel: 01902 319453. e-mail: chronsport@expressandstar.co.uk

Photographic
Tel: John Sam Brooks 01902 319431

Advertising

Sue Jones
Tel: 01384 399901
E-mail: sue.jones@expressandstar.co.uk

Motoring:

Liz Barratt
Tel: 01384 353244
E-mail: liz.barratt@expressandstar.co.uk

Distribution:

Paul Jones
Tel: 01902 319990
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'Outrage' over fewer court cases

THE total number of cases heard by magistrates' courts in the Black Country and Staffordshire has fallen by more than 26 per cent in four years, figures reveal.

Courts dealt with 70,537 cases in 2013/14 compared with 95,439 in 2010/11.

National figures show that courts across England and Wales heard 2.8 million cases last year, nearly a mil-

lion less than in 2010. The figures were uncovered by Dudley North MP Ian Austin.

He said he is concerned by the statistics. Last year the Labour MP led a successful campaign to save Dudley Magistrates' Court from closure.

"We already know that a million crimes are not being recorded, the number of police is down by 13,000

and now these figures show that the number of cases taken to court is down by a quarter," he said.

"When I was fighting to save Dudley's local court from closure, magistrates told me police are dealing with serious cases, including domestic violence and rape, out of court. I think people will be outraged."

"Like me they want more police on the streets, more offenders going

to court and more criminals being put in jail."

The figures show the number of cases heard at Dudley during four years dropped from 15,552 to 10,502 — a reduction of around 32 per cent.

In 2010/11 a total of 98 courts shut down across the country, including Halesowen and West Bromwich Magistrates courts and Stourbridge county court.

Legal bid to tackle boy racers in court

A BID to secure a High Court injunction to tackle boy racers across the Black Country is due back before the courts next month.

West Midlands Police and Dudley, Wolverhampton, Walsall and Sandwell councils are seeking the High Court injunction.

The Black Country Route in Bilston and Moxley, Birmingham New Road on the border of Wolverhampton and Dudley, and Maybrook Industrial Estate in Brownhills have all been hotspots for the car crusaders.

Prison

The order would involve anyone suspected of breaching the ban being held in contempt of court, which can result in a sentence of up to two years in prison.

Police would also have their powers to convict motorists of offences such as driving without insurance, driving an unroadworthy vehicle or driving without due care and attention.

Police said the High Court injunction application will be heard again in court in December.

The process had started in the courts in September.

Officers said they would continue with patrols in those areas.

Unique card opportunity

FAMILIES have an opportunity to make their own unique Christmas card at a Christmas fair to be held at Overend Methodist Mission in Banner's Lane, Cradley on Saturday.

A photographer will be on hand with traditional nativity costumes and backgrounds to make quality individual cards at a cost of £3.

The fair will run from 11am until 2pm and entry is free.

Seasonal lunches, including hot turkey baps, will be available, and there will be stalls.

Speeders clocked

MORE than one in five drivers were caught speeding during a police operation in Halesowen.

Officers carried out the speed check for more than an hour in Hawne Lane in Belle Vale. Out of 58 vehicles 13 were found to be breaking the 30mph limit.

Angry MP hits out at NHS sell-off 'smear'

CONSERVATIVE MPs have hit back at union claims that they have links to private firms who could profit from Government reforms to the NHS, with Stourbridge's MP calling them a 'smear'.

Unite published a dossier saying there were 70 coalition MPs who had links to such firms.

In the Black Country they named Stourbridge MP Mar-

got James who co-founded a public relations company, Shire Health Group, before selling it to Ogilvy & Mather in a deal that was completed in the early 2000s, at least eight years before she became an MP.

Miss James was also once head of European healthcare for marketing parent company WPP Group.

Elected

But the MP said she had no links to any private healthcare firms since before she was elected in 2010 and claimed that to suggest otherwise was a 'smear'.

Miss James said: "I resent this smear. I believe strongly in a taxpayer funded National Health Service. The implication that I would support anything else is totally erroneous."

"I have no links to private healthcare. I have previously been a director of an NHS trust and did not take a salary, despite being entitled to one."

Len McCluskey, Unite general secretary, said: "The Government had no mandate to sell-off our NHS, no one voted for it, yet they are doing just that. You have to ask yourself why?"

"Over £13 billion pounds of our local services have fallen into private hands."

A Conservative Party spokesman said: "Here in the Conservative Party, donations don't buy our leader, our candidates or our policies. If only the same could be said of Unite and the Labour Party."

It comes after a proposal for a nearby site was submitted last month, for 26 homes on the site of the former warehouse off Marine Crescent in Wordsley.

The council will make a decision on both applications in the coming months.

Roof raised at Lye centre



John Polychronakis at the centre with Abdul Qudas and Vicar of Christ Church Simon

A COMMUNITY centre in Lye has been given a £3,500 makeover.

Lye Community Centre in Cross Walks Road was closed for five days for work on the ceiling to take place alongside the installation of new lights and redecoration.

With £1,000 of funding from Amblecote, Lye and Stourbridge North and £2,500 received from Pedmore, Stourbridge, Wollaston and Norton Forum, work was able to get underway.

Chairman of the association Abdul Qudas

said: "I would like to thank the local councils and authorities for their generosity. I am really grateful for their support."

As well as work on the roof, painters and decorators are also giving the venue a facelift and the centre is being kitted out with new tables, chairs and a computer centre.

Mr Qudas added: "Everything will be completed by Christmas. We will be holding an event for the grand opening and Dudley Chief Executive John Polychronakis will be attending before his retirement."

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Probe into death of man, 28, on a bus

THE Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) is to investigate the actions of officers after a Dudley man died on a bus in Wolverhampton.

The IPCC is looking into the actions of police and a civilian staff member regarding the death of 28-year-old Tony Jones on a bus outside the city's main police station in the early evening of Friday October 17.

The driver of the number one Dudley-to-Tettenhall service diverted the vehicle to the Bilston Street station due to concerns about Mr Jones, who is said to have collapsed on board.

IPCC spokesman Neil Coyte said at this stage investigators had established that the driver parked the bus outside and went in to request assistance to deal with the situation.

Mr Coyte said the driver returned to the counter at 6.36pm and ten minutes later he was joined by a passenger, and the bus driver called an ambulance.

Eyewitnesses say a female passenger came in shouting: "Help, help, he's not breathing."

Paramedics tried to resuscitate Mr Jones but he was declared dead at the scene.

Church holds tree festival

A DISPLAY of decorated Christmas trees will herald the festive season at a church this weekend.

Volunteers at St Mary's Church, in Kingswinford, are busy preparing for the annual Christmas Tree Festival.

There will also be stalls.

The event will take place at the church on Saturday between 10am and 4pm and on Sunday from 11.30am to 4pm.

Refreshments will be served in the church centre.

On Saturday, the Ladies Singers choir will also perform in the church.

Van hits post box

A DRIVER escaped with minor injuries when his van smashed into a post box in Netherton at around 5.30am on Saturday.

Two vans collided at the junction of Griffin Street and Marriott Road, and one hit the post box. Neither motorist was injured.

Black Country TV is set for new year arrival

TELEVISION for the Black Country could start to be broadcast from February next year.

Kaleidoscope TV, which is being run by Stourbridge-based Chris Perry and former ATV presenter Mike Prince, has been awarded the local TV licence for the area, to also cover Birmingham and Solihull.

Mr Perry said that Walsall was among four sites — the other three are in the Aston area — where the new company is looking to have its studios.

Ofcom's broadcast licensing committee has awarded the licence to Kaleidoscope TV following the collapse of City TV earlier this year. The media regulator has given the license on condition it launches the new digital service on Freeview before the end of February.

Kaleidoscope's commitments include an initial 41 hours of local programmes a week, including a 90-minute breakfast show, news at noon and a half-hour programme of news at 6pm and 10pm.

Kaleidoscope director Chris Perry owns half of the company with the other half owned by Mr Prince, who was to have been City TV's programme controller.

Name

Mr Prince, who lives in Birmingham, said the name of the new station was yet to be announced.

He said: "It is a holding company for the new TV channel, the name of which has yet to be announced. There are several names

on the shortlist. It will serve Birmingham and the Black Country. We want to provide local contents for all the towns in the area.

"We are looking to start the service on February 28 and possibly do test transmissions leading up to that date.

"We are very excited and welcome the opportunity to deliver a TV service for the Black Country, Birmingham and Solihull. We have got a lot of work to do leading up to the launch and a few key decisions will be made within the next couple of weeks."

NEWS IN BRIEF

New menswear store at Merry Hill

A FASHION retailer will open a new store for men at Merry Hill shopping centre, creating 12 jobs.

London-based menswear store Open will welcome shoppers to its latest branch from Saturday.

Bosses say the store will celebrate the opening with a special event including free coffee and doughnuts for shoppers.

Open managing director Stephen Galea said: "We aim to deliver a simple no-nonsense approach to menswear."

Based in Barking, Open was founded in 2013.

Dial-a-ride bus service launched

A DIAL-A-RIDE community bus is being launched for residents in Hagley.

West Midland Special Need Transport is working with Hagley Parish Council on the plans, following cutbacks to bus services in Worcestershire by the county council.

It will run every Wednesday, Thursday and Friday between 10 am and 2 pm.

Chairman of Hagley Parish Council Steve Colella will ask residents to register their interest in the scheme.

Old Hill to get lit up for the season

A CHRISTMAS lights turn-on will take place in Old Hill, near Halesowen, on Saturday.

The event will be at the Holy Trinity Church, and will start from 3.30pm.

There will be children's fair rides, face painting and a variety of gift stalls as part of the event.

Cradley Heath Salvation Army Band will also perform. The lights will be turned on at 5pm.

Foundry has won an industry award

A BLACK Country foundry was among the winners in the Cast Metals Federation's annual awards.

Thomas Dudley received the company achievement award. Joint managing director Martin Dudley was presented with the accolade. The foundry in Birmingham, New Road has invested £50,000 to create a new visitor centre.

Choral concert

A CHOIR is preparing to host its annual festive show. The Ellenvale Singers will be holding a Christmas concert at Brierley Hill Civic Hall on December 10 at 7.30pm with Sovereign Brass Band.

Environment bosses to talk to energy-from-waste firm

AN ENVIRONMENT watchdog opposed to a proposed waste recycling plant says it will open talks with the company behind the controversial scheme.

Clean Power resubmitted a plan to build the facility on land off Moor Street in Brierley Hill but it has received an objection from the Environment Agency.

The agency, which is also considering a permit application to operate the plant, said the location is unsuitable with housing 50 feet from the proposed site boundary.

It also fears the short distance from homes will open potential for complaints over odour and dust from the site, which would include two organic waste digestion tanks.

In a letter sent to Dudley Council, the agency said it would meet officers and Clean Power representatives to discuss the objection.

The firm's agents Iceni Projects had written to the council asking for help in solving the problem posed by the agency's opposition to the scheme.

The move marks another twist for the proposal, which was first unveiled two years ago.

Following a public consultation, the firm lodged a planning application with Dudley Council, which was then thrown out by councillors over odour concerns. The plans have been revived but with air lock controls to tackle the smell issue.

Harriet Templar-Vasey, of the Environment Agency, added: "We've assessed the application and we feel that it does not contain enough detail for us to be able to make a decision.

"We have produced a detailed list of information that we will require and will be placing it onto our public register once issued to the applicant."

By Alex Ross

The Say No To Waste-SNOW group are objecting because of concerns over extra lorry traffic being brought to the area.

The Wordsley School off Brierley Hill Road has also objected.

The company says the plant would process about 195,000 tons of waste a year, producing energy for up to 10,000 homes and creating more than 30 jobs at the plant.

The firm has also submitted a permit application to the Environment Agency but the agency says more details are needed.

Harriet Templar-Vasey, of the Environment Agency, added: "We've assessed the application and we feel that it does not contain enough detail for us to be able to make a decision.

"We have produced a detailed list of information that we will require and will be placing it onto our public register once issued to the applicant."

Below average complaints

JUST over 400 complaints were lodged with Dudley Council over a six month spell. But the number of issues that people had with the local authority was less than the average amount received by other councils.

The authority received 405 complaints from April to October, the equivalent of 5.76 complaints per 10,000 people.

The average for comparable authorities is 9.87 complaints for every 10,000 people.



'Voice of the balls' Alan Dedicoat attends a Children in Need fundraising quiz in Kinver

Voice of the balls helps out with quiz

HIS dulcet tones have heralded celebrations from thousands of winners of the National Lottery as he calls the numbers that can make you a millionaire.

But the 'voice of the balls' Alan Dedicoat is just as at home calling a quiz at a community centre to help another cause, the charity Children In Need.

The 59-year-old, who hails from Hollywood, the one near Bromsgrove, journeyed back to his home region for his annual appearance at the Kinver Rotary Club charity quiz.

Hundreds packed into the Edward Marsh centre in the village last week for the event which Mr Dedicoat has hosted for the past 14 years.

The National Lottery this month has celebrated its 20th anniversary having paid out an astonishing £53 billion in prize money, making more than 3,700 millionaires.

Mr Dedicoat, 59, joined the team soon after the lottery began and has been an integral part of the show's success. "I have been the voice that has made a lot of people happy but really it has been me that has been lucky to be a part of something so fabulous," he said.

Choral concert

A CHOIR is preparing to host its annual festive show. The Ellenvale Singers will be holding a Christmas concert at Brierley Hill Civic Hall on December 10 at 7.30pm with Sovereign Brass Band.

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



A GROUP of cat owners have posted images on the internet allegedly proving that, if you create a circle on the floor, a cat will automatically sit inside it. So I made a circle of rope on the lounge floor and our old tabby pointedly stayed outside it and eventually sat down next to it. This proves the oldest feline rule of all. The more you want a cat to do something, the less it will.

I LOVE this email: "Receive an envelope from the NHS today containing two letters. One confirmed a hospital appointment. The other cancelled it. This is factual. I'm not clever enough to make this stuff up."

I HAVE an explanation for the curious case of the reader whose smartphone suddenly produced a text message from an optician shortly after she walked past the premises. It is something called proximity marketing. But all the descriptions I have seen stress that users have to opt-in to the system in order to receive messages. You don't recall opting-in? I would hazard a guess that it was somewhere in the terms and conditions, that vast mass of legal blurb that nobody ever bothers to read. In fact, let's have a National T&C Day when everybody refuses to sign up to anything on the internet without first thoroughly reading every single paragraph of the terms and conditions. The system would crash.

ON the bodge-it-yourself website DIYnot, the conversation turns to the difficulty of finding good tradespeople in London. A contributor in the capital writes enviously: "Outside London all the people are well suited to manual labour. They all wear wellingtons and drive to work on tractors." Yip, that's us.

STRANGE times. It used to be the rule that anyone becoming prime minister would be more unpopular during his term in Downing Street than at any other time in his life. How times change. Weird Ed is record-breakingly unpopular before he gets anywhere near No 10 and Tony Blair, the multi-millionaire bringer-of-peace, is even more despised today than when he was in residence.

THE tear-jerking Sainsbury's yuletide advert, set in the Christmas Truce of 1914, has obviously been working its sentimental magic. A contributor to one of the national newspapers implores us: "Should we not have compassion for the thousands of German soldiers, also sons, fathers and brothers?" I can see why someone might want to extend remembrance to the amiable, photogenic young German soldiers in the Sainsbury's ad. But what about their comrades who ransacked the Belgian city of Louvain, torched its priceless medieval library and executed hundreds of civilians, including women and children? Do they, too, deserve a place in our hearts and a chunk of our Sainsbury chocolate? And what about Hitler's death squads, or today's enemy, the Taliban and their fellow beheaders, the Islamic State? Are they all to be remembered with compassion, too? If not, why not? The moment we start extending compassion to all our enemies is the moment we put our soldiers on the same moral level as Jihadi John. Not in my name, thanks.

INCIDENTALLY, there's not much evidence that a football match was played between German and British soldiers during the 1914 truce. Most accounts describe the soldiers exchanging gifts, showing each other family photos and talking about football. No matter. The image of a football match is so powerful that it is remorselessly passing into history without the need for any historical evidence. It should have happened, so let us tell the kids it did happen.

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Fares to rise for ring and ride service

RING and ride buses are having their funding slashed by £700,000 with fares to use them in the evening set to double.

Council leaders in the West Midlands will give £7.8 million to run the service next year, down from £8.5m for the current year.

It will mean the £1 fare for using the service after 7pm will go to £2. But the Sunday service scrapped

this year will be brought back, with a £2 charge.

The £1 for using it Monday to Friday before 7pm is fixed.

Around 22,000 people use the door-to-door minibuses, operated by charity West Midlands' Special Needs Transport.

It runs across Dudley, Wolverhampton, Sandwell, Walsall, Birmingham, Coventry and Solihull.

Earlier this year the 60p fare went up to £1.

Councillor Richard Worrall, who had previously led a 56,000 name petition against cuts, said council and transport bosses were 'making the best of a bad situation'.

The Walsall councillor said: "There is not a lot else they could do. Any service that is not required by law is vulnerable to cuts."

The decision has been made by the leaders of the councils who sit on the West Midlands Integrated Transport Authority.

A public consultation saw users plead for the service to be retained.

The service had been at risk of losing all its subsidy.

The review of the service was led by Councillor Darren Cooper, leader of Sandwell Council.

Veterans support scheme revealed

ARMED Forces veterans who are struggling to adjust to life after military service will get support through a new mentoring project.

National volunteering charity TimeBank is behind the scheme being organised locally through Dudley Council. Officials say veterans can face many challenges in adjusting to civilian life including financial hardship. The charity's Shoulder to Shoulder project provides regular one-to-one mentoring support.

A series of drop-in sessions will be held where veterans can get practical advice and talk through any issues they are facing.

The sessions are at Dudley Fire station, in Burton Road, on December 8, and in 2015 on January 8, February 4 and March 12. Session will also be held at Stourbridge Fire station, off Parkfield Road on December 22, January 22, February 16 and March 26. All sessions are between 10am and 1pm.

Andy Forster, programme manager at TimeBank's Birmingham office, said: "We're delighted that Dudley Council is funding this project to provide practical support for veterans across the borough."

Call 0121 236 253 for details.

Teen is hurt in collision

A TEENAGE boy was taken to hospital with facial injuries after being hit by a car in Dudley.

The crash took place on the Birmingham Road between the Castlegate roundabout and the Burnt Tree junction at 4pm last Tuesday. One lane was blocked as emergency services treated the teenager, who was later taken to Russells Hall Hospital.

On the same day, a man was injured when he was hit by a car which then hit the wall of Wizard and Glass Pub in Cradley Heath just after 9pm.

Comedy on menu

STOURBRIDGE Theatre Company are staging Alan Ayckbourn's play Table Manners at Stourbridge Town Hall. The comedy drama set in a dining room is performed from tonight (Thursday) to Saturday. Tickets cost £9 (concessions £7). Call 0870 320 7000.

MPS back new deal for pubs despite warnings

MAJOR West Midlands pub companies have warned that hundreds of closures and thousands of job losses could result from changes to 'beer tie' deals with landlords – despite Dudley MPs backing the move to free pub tenants.

By Daniel Wainwright

Chris Kelly, Conservative MP for Dudley South, was among 40 Tory and Liberal Democrat rebels who backed an amendment to the Small Business, Enterprise and Employment Bill – PM David Cameron's first defeat on a Government law since the Coalition was formed.

It will mean pub tenants tied to big companies being able to demand a 'market rent only' agreement. Currently, tied pubs exclusively buy alcohol products from the parent company in return for reduced rent on the premises and other benefits.

Concerns

There have been widespread concerns about the abuse of the practice by big pub firms.

But Britain's biggest pub landlord, Solihull-based Enterprise Inns warned the vote to reform the 'beer tie' could lead to more pub closures and job losses.

The British Beer and Pub Association (BBPA) said the vote was "hugely damaging" and Staffordshire-based Punch Taverns said: "We believe that the amendment would be likely to have the effect of reducing

ing pub investment, reducing consumer choice and exposing tenants to higher fixed rents, reduced levels of support and greater risk of failure."

Dudley North MP Ian Austin backed the amendment which will allow landlords to buy beer on the open market rather than buying all their beer from the pub's owner.

It will also mean they can have their rent checked independently to ensure it is fair.

Labour MP Mr Austin said: "The Black Country is home to some of the best brewers in Britain like Holdens and Fownes, and brilliant pubs like the Courthouse, the Fountain and the Jolly Crispin.

"I've supported the Campaign for Real Ale's campaign for a 'Pubs Charter' from the start so landlords get a fair deal from big brewers which will help keep local pubs open."

Consultants help air ambulance

A SPECIALIST recruitment consultancy has raised almost £10,000 for the Midlands Air Ambulance.

Concept Resourcing, of Castle Court, Castlegate Way, Dudley, chose the air ambulance as its charity of the year and has organised a number of events including a quiz and raffle held at the Village Hotel in Dudley.

A team from Concept, which serves the IT, engineering and public sectors, also took on the Three Peaks Challenge, which they completed 22 hours and 29 minutes. John Cottrell, fundraising assistant for Midlands Air Ambulance, said: "They have really got behind our charity."

X-tra special festive guest



Wagner meets fans during the festive lights switch-on, pic by Terrence R Alliband

THE X Factor star Wagner returned to his musical roots with a performance for hundreds of people at the turn-on of the Christmas lights in Dudley and Blackheath.

The Dudley-based Brazilian who became a tattooist in the town after his stint on the TV show sang his new Christmas single Switched On Like A Christmas Tree at the events on Saturday.

He appeared in Dudley town centre for the light turn-on at 5pm, then at Blackheath for the switch-on at 6pm.

He was joined in Dudley by dancer act Granny Turismo, who entertained the crowds with their routines featuring shopping trolleys.

Mayor of Dudley Councillor Margaret Aston, said: "The turn-out was fantastic. It was a real privilege to turn on the lights for the people of Dudley and I wish everyone a happy start to the festive season."

In Blackheath, Wagner joined Sandwell Mayor, Councillor Derek Rowley, to turn on the lights.

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Wordsley start-up money is available

BUSINESSES can apply for a share of a £16,000 cash pot to help set up in Wordsley.

Funding is also available for projects bringing empty shops back into use and helping to create jobs and investment.

The money is available via the Kingswindsford North & Wall Heath, Kingswindsford South and Wordsley Community Forum.

Ward councillor Paul Brothwood said: "I urge potential entrepreneurs to come forward and make use of this public money to improve our local community."

"This funding could act as a catalyst for further investment to be ploughed into our area which would in turn generate jobs and greater opportunities."

"The community forum also has additional funds available to help local projects and good causes in the area. I call on people to attend the forum meetings and learn more about what is happening in the area."

This funding is a great opportunity and I urge people to seize it," he added.

To find out further information about the funding opportunities email councillor.paul.brothwood@dundleymbc.org.uk or contact Dudley Council.

Baubles to boost charity

A STORE at Merry Hill shopping centre is raising money for vulnerable children by allowing shoppers to decorate its Christmas tree with baubles.

Customers at Homesense are able to buy a bauble for £1 on which to write their own festive message and hang on the store's tree.

All proceeds will go to Action for Children's centres in Smethwick and West Bromwich.

The campaign has been running for four years. Last year Homesense raised more than £75,000 for the Black Country charity's children's centres.

Gardening course

GARDENING enthusiasts can enhance skills with a Royal Horticultural Society course at Priory Park in Dudley. Participants are asked to pay £100 each towards the course, with the rest paid from the park's Heritage Lottery Fund grant. Call (01384) 812474.

Money transfer boss jailed for ignoring rules



Paramjit Singh Sangha

THE owner of a Black Country money bureau has been jailed for 12 months for failing to comply with regulations to combat money laundering.

Paramjit Singh Sangha, who runs PS Gold Exchange in Dudley, failed to carry out required checks before transferring up to £400,000 of his clients' money to India.

The 53-year-old of Spring Parklands did not check the identity of all his customers, failed to keep necessary documentation and did not train staff to spot suspicious activi-

ty. He ignored warnings from HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) officers who visited him several times.

Colin Booker, assistant director of Criminal Investigation at HMRC, said: "Regulations exist to prevent businesses being used for money laundering purposes by criminals. People who run money services bureaux are required to take extra care when transferring larger sums of money, to help prevent criminally obtained cash from being laundered outside the UK."

"HMRC officers visited Sangha

on several occasions and advised him that he needed to take more care. He chose to ignore us, which is why he found himself in court."

Sangha pleaded guilty to four charges of failing to comply with regulations and was jailed at Wolverhampton Crown Court last week.

Most money service businesses that exchange currency, transmit money or cash cheques for their customers are required to comply with Money Laundering Regulations (MLRs). This includes registering with HMRC and undertaking

appropriate checks. All businesses that are covered by the regulations have to put in place suitable anti-money laundering controls.

This can include assessing the risk of the business being used by criminals to launder money, checking the identity of customers, keeping all documents that relate to financial transactions and making sure that employees are aware of the regulations and have the necessary training. Businesses are also required to report suspicious activity to the National Crime Agency.

Pub toilets are flushed with pride

THREE pubs in Dudley have won acclaim for their toilets in the Loo of the Year Awards 2014.

The Abraham Darby at Merry Hill and The Clifton in Sedgley have each been awarded a platinum star rating by inspectors — the highest award — while The Waterfront Inn at Level Street, Brierley Hill, achieved a gold rating.

Loo awards boss Mike Bone said: "The toilets at each of the pubs have been designed and fitted out to a very high standard and are both clean and well maintained."

Technology tips for the elderly

OLDER people living near Brierley Hill are being offered help in how to use mobile phones and other digital technology.

The workshop on Monday is the first in a week of sessions at Age UK Dudley's Waterfront Activity Centre on Level Street.

Attendees will be given guidance on how to use iPads, laptops and other common technology. Places are limited and must be booked.

Call (01384) 571830 for more information.

Christmas fair to aid church funds

FAMILIES are invited to a Christmas fair at a Dudley church on Saturday.

The event at St Mark's in Pensnett will be opened by the Mayor of Dudley Councillor Margaret Aston at noon.

There will be stalls selling a range of items including cakes and plants. There will also be a tombola and a visit from Father Christmas. Proceeds will go to church funds.

Bingo bonanza with £195K win

A BINGO player has struck lucky taking home a jackpot prize of £195,388 in Oldbury.

The young bingo player, who regularly enjoys a game of bingo, called house at Mecca Bingo in the town.

The winner claimed the prize during the evening session on November 13, bosses announced.

Church festive fun

A CHRISTMAS fair will take place at an Upper Gornal church on Saturday. The event in aid of church funds will be at St Peter's Church, in Kent Street, from 10.30am to 2.30pm.

ADVERTISEMENT

Cloudy2Clear Windows – Service With A Smile!

It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Managing Director Brian Stanley feels that it's all about service. 'Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass in a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people

money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done.'

We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole.'

Cloudy2Clear service Wolverhampton and the surrounding

area and Brian is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. 'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people

I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Brian a call for a free quotation on 0800 61 21 118 and he'll be happy to help!



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IN MY VIEW



with Mark Andrews

IN THE nauseating new trailer for ITV's daytime schedule, Philip Schofield asks viewers what their phobias are.

I'm no expert on the subject. But I would imagine Gok Wan and Janet Street-Porter being dragged out of bed by Lorraine Kelly and told you need a makeover must all feature pretty high-

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Twenty-seven police stations across the West Midlands are set to close their front counters over the next year in an effort to save £3m.

Under the plans, only just 10 will remain open, with only one of those remaining open round the clock.

For the first time in living memory, towns like Walsall and Dudley will have no police station where members of the public can walk in for help.

If you need to call into a police station in Wolverhampton or West Bromwich after 10pm, forget it.

Police and Crime Commissioner David Jamieson, says the front desks are a throwback from a bygone age, and that the world has moved on.

"Ninety-five per cent of people have mobile phones now, and can contact the police from anywhere," he says.

"Research shows that very few people are visiting front desks and prefer to phone the police or use the internet rather than go to a police station."

It really is hard to know where to start with all that.

I'm sure he's right most people would prefer to avoid calling into a police station unless they really have to.

Indeed I'm fairly sure, that in an ideal world, most of us would prefer never to need to have any dealings with the police at all. But it is nice to know they are there in case we need them.

If 95 per cent of the population has a mobile phone, that means five per cent don't have one.

What about them?

And, of course, contacting the police by phone these days invariably means being redirected to a call centre miles away.

And while 95 per cent may well have mobile phones, what happens when you have just been robbed of your phone in the city centre?

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And one other thing. Suppose you get pulled over by the police in your car, and they ask you to produce your documents the following day.

Will they be happy for you to send them by text or email? Or will you now be expected to drive miles to find a police station which is still open?

Just a thought.



Martin Clunes during a break in filming at Dudley



Drama co-stars Charles Edwards and Martin Clunes



Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, creator of Sherlock Holmes

WEEK IN POLITICS



with Daniel Wainwright

AMID the anger over the planned closure of police station front desks, I have to feel a little bit sorry for David Jamieson.

The West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner was elected into the role at enormous cost and on a measly low turnout.

At £3.7 million and serving an electorate of about two million, it was one of the biggest and most expensive by-elections ever. While Labour's Mr Jamieson won a decisive victory with more than 50 per cent of the votes cast, it was not the greatest moment for democracy. Barely one in 10 people bothered to vote for who they wanted to fill a role few even understood. Almost two years on from when the role was created, not that many wanted to accept the offer of greater political and democratic accountability within the force.

This week a lot of people read the name David Jamieson. MPs from his own party are demanding he change a plan to shut the front desks of 27 police stations and reduce the opening hours of others.

The argument in favour is that few people go to the police station in person now, preferring instead to communicate by phone or internet. But, inevitably, the talk turns to the £3 million saving, coming as it does at a time of deep cuts in police funding.

If there was no police and crime commissioner in the first place, there would have been no election and therefore no cost to the taxpayer. In short, that's another year's worth of front desks staying open.

Before anyone gets all pedantic and points out that the election costs are met by the Home Office and the front desks by the police, just remember it's all public money. The source of it, whether central or local government, is you.

Where I feel especially sorry for David Jamieson is how isolated he now appears within his own party. His colleagues in Parliament are keeping things professional but they are all agreed this is a bad idea.

They put on a united front by blaming the Government for the cuts but the decision on how to deal with them rests with the Commissioner. If he does give in to demands of Westminster politicians it would call into question the whole point of the role.

When Dudley Labour MP Ian Austin brought up the plan with William Hague in the Commons he was just told how satisfied people have been with the police, effectively pushing responsibility back to Mr Jamieson in his office in Birmingham.

The review of front desks was started by Mr Jamieson's predecessor Bob Jones, whose sudden death triggered the by-election.

There will now be quite a lot of people looking at these proposals and saying how they certainly didn't vote for this. Of course, that includes the vast majority who didn't vote at all.

Return to scene of crimes for Clunes

ANDREW TURTON on the making of a drama based on a case that intrigued the creator of Sherlock Holmes

ACTOR Martin Clunes has been travelling the country filming his latest TV drama but now the action has returned to the region where it all began – the West Midlands.

The incredible tale of a Staffordshire vicar's son wrongly jailed for an horrific attack on a pit pony and then dramatically proved innocent by Sherlock Holmes creator Sir Arthur Conan Doyle is to be told in a three-part ITV series.

The cast of Arthur and George last week came to the Black Country Living Museum to film in its authentic period buildings to recreate the tale which unfolded at the start of the 20th century and stunned the nation.

Producers turned to the cobbled streets and industrial canalside locations of the Black Country Living Museum to bring the new ITV drama to life.

Gripped

Vicar's son and Birmingham solicitor George Edalji, an Anglo-Asian, was wrongly convicted in 1903 after a series of vicious maiming attacks on horses and other livestock, which became known as the Great Wyrley Outrages. The tale made headlines nationwide and it fell to Conan Doyle to play real-life detective to help to clear his name.

The Great Wyrley Outrages are the centre of a three-part series starring Martin Clunes, best known for Cornish drama Doc Martin and the comedy Men Behaving Badly, as Conan Doyle.

Film crews and actors – including Clunes – arrived at the popular heritage



Martin Clunes about to film a scene for Arthur & George at the museum

museum, in Tipton Road, Dudley, to begin a three day shoot.

The museum's buildings were transformed into the Staffordshire village of Great Wyrley in the 1900s when the outrages gripped the nation.

The tale has reached a new audience as in 2005 it was thrust back into the spotlight by author Julian Barnes whose Arthur and George novel was shortlisted for the Man Booker prize and has now been adapted for television.

Julian Barnes is not directly involved in the production, but has given it his blessing.

Clunes finds his latest role intriguing.

He said: "It's been a big change for us on the Doc Martin team."

The museum's canal and forge area are being used for filming. Extra set dressing has been brought in to create atmosphere. Actors will even be seen with replicas of the Cannock Chronicle, to read all about the sensational headlines of the case during the show.

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Julian Barnes is not directly involved in the production, but has given it his blessing.

Clunes finds his latest role intriguing.

He said: "It's been a big change for us on the Doc Martin team."

The traffic makes it 'Merry Hell'

MERRY Hill enjoys 25 years success!

The people who own 'Merry Hell' are rubbing their hands together, raking in 25 years of profits.

To the local people who live close to the centre, at certain times of the year it can only be described as motoring madness.

No investment has been made in the road systems around the centre, leading to congestion at peak times. The centre traffic builds up as far back as Commonside.

Trying to get out is even worse. At the island in Level street, no thought has been

given to the traffic trying to get through to Pensnett and beyond, and the hundreds of cars coming out of the centre that merge at the same island.

The centre owners and Dudley Council need to get together and sort out the mess they have created. No thought was even given at the planning stage to the poor road systems around Brierley Hill. The roads are too narrow, and the traffic lights for the Brierley Hill bypass has made things worse.

D POTTER
Brierley Hill

Stage could ruin project for gardens

A few weeks ago Dudley Council announced a £1.3m project to revamp the Coronation Gardens.

The refurbishment is to include the re-building of the wall by the fountain – great news, long overdue.

The refurbishment of Apollo Fountain is also great news though I'm not so sure about the re-introduction of water – could invite vandalism. Then, with the pluses comes a whopping minus.

After Priory Park, the gardens are probably our second jewel in the crown. It has flowers, lawns, walk-throughs, seating and now the cenotaph. Why on earth does the council feel a need to build a stage and outdoor centre and events area on this lovely place? It will ruin the gardens and part of the money should go on other needs in the town.

Look at what didn't happen on that other great idea. The square in Stone Street cost us over £800k – and for what? It was once a bus stop and a car park, you know, useful things.

S HUNT
Dudley

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

Dudley Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
51-53 Queen Street,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

E-MAIL

Dudley.chrons@
expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Don't target our vital youth services

HAVING been a leader for 47 years in the voluntary youth service in the Dudley borough I find the proposed closure of the universal youth service (with the exception of all but one) very alarming.

To invest in the future we must invest in our children and young people.

Our children and young people should not be an easy option to save money.

Over the years, Dudley MBC has taken many privileges away from the youth service.

With the introduction of extended schools our four groups, with an average of 80 children and young people attending each week, lost the free bookings of the school hall. Many facilities for our youth have been lost

over the years, canoeing, sailing, rock climbing and the withdrawal of ten youth and community mini-buses.

The closure of any of our youth centres or services will be a great mistake as they are providing a place to meet and a safe haven. Bored groups will soon add to the problems that already exist, bringing even greater problems to the communities.

However good the voluntary youth organisations are, they cannot cater to the needs of all young people. The full time youth service provides many alternatives, so Dudley, keep providing one.

MARK A GORDON
Wimbledon Drive
Stourbridge

Size of mosque building too large

I SAW the picture of the proposed mosque and the size of it appalled me.

It is too large for the place it is to be built, and too large for Dudley itself.

The problem is, when or if it is built, will it end there?

Or will the those behind the mosque plan buy up other land around about, and continue building other amenities, until we have a small Muslim town within a town?

The building of the mosque is against the wishes of the majority of the people of Dudley.

P STEEN
Stourbridge

It's the words that matter

RE J Grainger 'Songs just not praise worthy'. Sadly for you the tune is more important than the spiritual message within the words.

I did not hear Michael Ball's interpretation, but surely a new tune brings fresh emphasis to the old words and re-energises the importance of those words and, God willing, brings those words to a new generation.

Perhaps the small mindedness of some folk has brought the church to where it is today?

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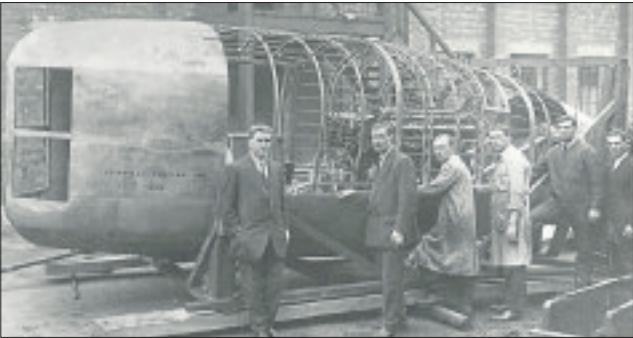




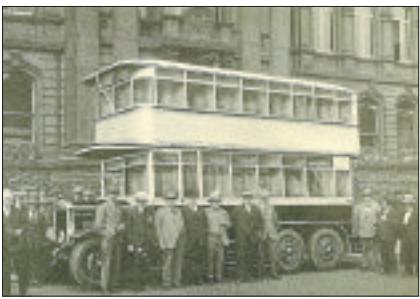
Reginald Tildesley staff in Willenhall ready to sell Ford cars



Harry Nott, ex-RFC, at his wedding



Sunbeam workers in 1919 with one of the airship gondolas they were to produce



A Guy 6-wheel bus, one of post war success stories



Some of the many in Josiah Parkes in 1922

How post-war work return never took off

MEMORY LANE

By Alec Brew

AT 11 am on November 11, 1918 the guns fell silent across the world.

They were firing right up to the last second, as many of the gunners wanted to claim that they had fired the last shot in the 'War to End all Wars'.

Then began the process of returning the millions of men and women, but mostly men to their homes, where many expected to return to their old jobs, supplanting the women who had taken their place; but things were not as simple as that.

Wolverhampton, and the Black Country in general, were geared up for war, turning out munitions, warplanes, guns, and all the paraphernalia of the modern conflict.

Orders were cancelled, though production of, now unwanted items, continued into 1919.

Dominated

Sunbeam returned their car production from Rover in Coventry but still hoped to make a large business in the production of aero-engines, which had dominated the Villiers Street factories during the war.

They were to find that the competition from Rolls-Royce in par-

ticular and from cheap war-surplus engines was too much, and they hardly sold an aircraft engine after the war.

Round the corner Star returned to car production, but were never able to sell enough from their confined factories to sustain the business, and firstly their Briton division and then Star itself went to the wall, and Edward Lisle, founder of the company took his life.

Guy returned to making trucks, and became hugely successful.

Other companies were also to find ready markets for their metal-bashing skills, making locks, bicycles, ploughshares, and all the nuts and bolts to put them together.

Elsewhere servicemen returned to quieter lives, opening shops, starting their own businesses, often with the skills they had learned in the Army, and looked forward to re-building their lives.



Edward Lisle who took his own life after business failure

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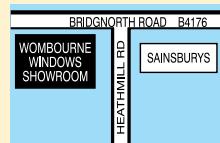
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Song honours war dead with a Christmas carol



A MUSICAL duo from Kinver are pinning their hopes on topping the charts with a new Christmas charity single in aid of the armed forces.

Judd Field. It celebrates the power of Christmas to bring peace in the midst of war and commemorates those who fought in World War One.

The singers are accompanied by members of the RAF Spitfire Choir. A video for the song was recorded at the Grave of the Unknown Warrior in Westminster Abbey.

Proceeds from sales will go to the Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund, The Royal Navy and Royal Marines Charities, and ABF The Soldier's Charity.

Abby said she was delighted to be involved in the project, saying: "It's a huge honour to be involved in this

song and share the message of peace at Christmas. Recording the video at Westminster Abbey at the Grave of the Unknown Solider, alongside today's servicemen and women, was an incredibly powerful experience.

Mother-of-one Abby said: "I can't even imagine sending my son off to war or having my husband not come home. Almost every family and every village in the country was affected by the Great War. Our song honours both those who died and the families who grieved back at home."

The song will be available for download online.

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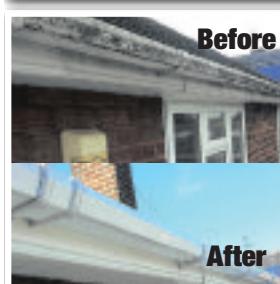
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The Wedding Present lived up to their name

BLACK Country jewellery designer Elizabeth Edge went to see her favourite band in Stourbridge — The Wedding Present — and ended up helping one of the group with their own wedding.

The 34-year-old rock fan was at the River Rooms in Stourbridge to see the indie band from Yorkshire when she got talking to lead singer David Gedge. When he discovered that Elizabeth made jewellery, he asked whether she would be interested in making the wedding ring for his fiancee Jessica.

After finding out what sort of ring they were looking for, she went to work in her studio in Old Wharf Road, Stourbridge.

History

The yellow gold ring took the former Stourbridge College and University of Wolverhampton student a week to make.

"Jessica liked a range I do called 'Unearthed' which is based on designs that feel like they have a history, with a worn feel that's quite tactile and nice to wear."

"As this is something that comes through my jewellery, I'm very interested in the history of objects and how they came to be. I visited the Staffordshire Hoard in Birmingham and there are some beautiful pieces on display."

She said: "Jessica said she hadn't seen many wedding rings that she liked and really liked the unusual design and also the fact that even though it was from a range I do no two rings are ever the same, as I make every ring by hand myself," she said.

Elizabeth, who lives in Stourbridge, travelled to Brighton to meet the couple and to hand over the finished ring.



Jewellery designer Elizabeth Edge, of Stourbridge, working on a wedding ring



Rock band The Wedding Present with Dave Gedge second from left

"They loved it and it fitted her," which is always a worry as a jeweller," she added.

The couple were married in Paris last month.

Elizabeth, who studied at the School of Jewellery in Birmingham, has been making jewellery professionally for the past five years. She gets three to four commissions each month. "It started

with friends and family but as I have got more confidence I have become better at promoting my work," she explained. Elizabeth said she hoped the rock star's commission would be the first of many celebrity commissions in the future.

The Wedding Present were one of the favourite bands of the influential DJ John Peel, who died in 2004.

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COMMERCIAL FEATURE

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Established since 1994, Tipton Windows & Conservatories Ltd, trading as Choices, believe that the latest trends are important, but quality products and exceptional service will always be paramount, which this family run business have proven over nearly two decades.

Situated on Sedgley Road West in Tipton, the founder and company Managing Director Nathan Beddows started the business from scratch at the early age of 19 working out of the very same premises as he does today. He explains his passion:

"I cannot stress enough how much pride we take in every window, door, conservatory, orangery we manufacture and install."

With its roots in manufacturing, the business started more than 19 years ago, and right from the very start an emphasis has been placed on supplying only the finest and most energy-efficient products, but still remaining affordable.

"Our commitment extends beyond the manufacturing process to the design and installation of doors, windows, conservatories and other home improvement services," explains Nathan.

"For some customers we supply new windows and doors, for others we provide a complete home improvement service from building extensions and fitting kitchens, to designing and

installing conservatories and more recently Orangeries," says Nathan.

One tremendously satisfied customer is Rick Houghton. Having being recommended to Choices Windows by colleagues at work, he employed them to carry out extensive work at his home, he is keen to share his experiences and commend the team involved.

"Every stage of the process was excellently planned and we received nothing but the best service from start to finish. The tradesmen were outstanding and we were so impressed that we handed over our keys and went on holiday whilst the work was being carried out."

Rick and his family were absolutely thrilled and utterly delighted with the results on their return.

"We are so grateful to Nathan and his team for transforming our home into something we could only have dreamed of," remarked Rick.

Keen to keep ahead in the style stakes, Nathan is ever aware of the latest designs, materials and colours on offer, and strives to make these available to his customers.

"Many people are now opting for stylish coloured PVC-U, influenced by timeless muted 'National Trust' tones. Sage green, gun metal grey and cream are all becoming very fashionable alongside the traditional clean bright white," explains Nathan.

Fitting new PVC-U windows can be a good choice for the environment as well as for your home. Replacing dated double glazing can help save money on heating bills and reduce the carbon footprint of a residence.

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"As a company we pride ourselves on giving old fashioned value for money and excellent service, we can undertake the majority of jobs and because we manufacture in house at our premises unlike the majority of our local competitors it enables us to have full control so we can manage your project from start to completion ensuring your experience is stress free".

"After many years in the Double glazing business we have seen a lot of competitors come and go, unfortunately leaving many customers without any warranty, after parting with their hard earned cash. Any customer who is considering having any home improvements should choose carefully and do their homework on the company they are considering, ensure if you part with money upfront it is protected by a Fensa approved deposit indemnity scheme, ask to visit previous customers but most importantly don't be fooled by the salesmen's tactics of a tempting "sign on the night low price offer" that the double glazing industry is notorious for" advises Nathan.

The old sayings are always the best - after a low price is long forgotten, poor quality long remains".

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BEFORE the business of the evening Tina, from Samaritan Boxes, came to take the things we had collected for this charity.

She thanked us on behalf of the charity. The boxes have to be ready by the December 6.

Our speaker for the evening was Peter Moody who came to talk to us about Beacon, Sedgley. Begun in 1875 the centre has seen many changes including names. In 1926 it was known as Wolverhampton Society for the blind and the old buildings had workshops.

Unfortunately cheap imports soon saw these building out of use so they were knocked down. Rebuilding has been done in stages, finally completed in 2009 and reopened as a charity to help local people with sight loss. Around four percent are totally blind other members are helped with varying problems arising from cataracts, diabetes, glaucoma, macular degeneration, sight loss after strokes etc. Beacon has more than 50 apartments, almost like sheltered accommodation, including a shop, hairdressers, activity centre and coffee shop. There are day members too and all enjoy the wider range of activities and excursions on offer. We look forward to a future visit to be shown round. A lovely, informative evening.

Our meetings are now held at Wombourne Community Centre on the second Wednesday of each month. All are welcome to join us.

Grand trip proved to be a real topper

Wombourne E TG

Getting ready for the festive season

A warm welcome was given to all the members and visitors.

This month's meeting was all about Getting ready for Christmas our speaker for the evening was Linda Jackson who had come along to demonstrate a variety of flower arrangements.

Linda demonstrated simple arrangement suitable for the Christmas dinner table, a grand arrangement that would dress the finest of hall's and arrangements that could fit around the home and set the scene for the festive season.

We all sat, watched and listened to some of Linda's memorable moments, which certainly entertained us whilst she was creating her arrangements.

We had a most enjoy-

able time and the flower arrangement's were raffled off and the following names were the lucky winners, Mary Westwood, Ena Wooddisse, Claire Shinton, Peggy White, Freda Fellows, Freda Perks, Sue Cotterell and Barbara Morris.

The competition for a Homemade Christmas Craft was won by Freda Fellows.

We are holding our WI Christmas Party on December 11 at the Village Hall, Trysull.

The Women's Institute meet every second Thursday in the month at the Village Hall, Trysull, 7.30pm.

We are always pleased to welcome new members and visitors.

Memories from Wall Heath

LOCAL historian John Sparry spoke at the November meeting of the Society about his Kingswinford and Wall Heath Memories.

K-ford and District Historical Society

Born in Kingswinford he told of the local characters, shopkeepers and neighbours whilst living in Moss Grove. After the family moved to Wall Heath he recounted incidents during the war of bombs dropping locally and of his journeys to school in Stourbridge. The Society meets at the Community Cen-

tre, High Street, Kingswinford. The December meeting starts at an earlier time of 7pm as this begins with the AGM.

The Society is in need of new officers and committee members and unless volunteers come forward it is likely the Society will close in 2015. Further details from Ron Julian 01384 295848.

Experience a Victorian Christmas at museum

Council leader is standing down



National role — Leader of Dudley Council and Labour leader Councillor David Sparks

THE leader of Dudley Council has announced he will stand down from the role next month.

Councillor David Sparks has also resigned from his role as leader of the Labour Party on the authority with immediate effect. He will step down as council leader at the next meeting of the full council on Monday after a successor has been appointed.

Councillor Sparks said he felt it was the right time to give up the role as a new chief executive, Sarah Norman, is due to start in January, when a reduced management team will be put in place. He has been leader of the council since May 2012 and leader of the Labour Group since 2004.

In July this year, Councillor Sparks was also appointed as chairman of the Local Government Association since July this year. He said standing down from his council leader position would also enable him to focus more on this role, working with councils nationwide to 'deliver local solutions to national problems.'

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16 Girl group album is a surefire Bette

Reviews by Leon Burakowski

BETTE Midler has long been the queen of cabaret-style entertainment with her blend of ballads, show tunes and wicked sense of humour.

To most under-30s she is probably best known as the funniest of the three witches in Disney's Halloween favourite *Hocus Pocus*.

Now she's back with her tribute to girl group pop, from the 1930s to 90s. It's *The Girls* is a classy project with Bette providing her own backing vocals, though she enlists the queen of backing singers Darlene Love to duet on The Crystals' 'He's Sure The Boy I Love'. Be My Baby, One Fine Day and Tell Him stick close to the originals.

Elsewhere she gives the songs an interesting twist, introducing a hint of her home state of Hawaii to Mr Sandman and brilliantly slowing Martha and the Vandellas' 'Come And Get These Memories' to a poignant ballad. A stripped back, piano-led version of TLC's 'Waterfalls' packs an emotional punch and she even pulls off a banjo-picking hillbilly version of You Can't Hurry Love. The album ends in fine vintage style with the Dixieland jazz of It's The Girl.

Bette Midler begins her first UK tour in 35 years at the Barclaycard Arena in Birmingham on July 9.

The combined CD/DVD package **Whitney Houston Live: Her Greatest Performances** combines 16 tracks plus 18 video performances, starting with her teenaged debut singing Home on The Merv Griffin TV show in 1983, via her Super Bowl performance of The Star Spangled Banner in '91 to her emotional I Didn't Know My Own Strength on The Oprah Winfrey Show in 2009. She died in 2012, aged only 48.



Whitney Houston — many of her famous live performances on a new album

As a live album, this doesn't hang together as well as a single concert performance but Whitney fans may enjoy the overview of her career.

Whitney Houston also appears on Barry Manilow album **My Dream Duets**, in which Barry sings with a lot of very famous but very dead stars of popular music. It may have been a dream come true for Manilow to duet with Judy Garland, Sammy Davis Jr, Dusty Springfield, Louis Armstrong, etc. I think it is more of a nightmare.

These are not true duets with musical to-and-fro between the artists, they are — however expertly done — slice and splice jobs. It's a bad concept and a creative cul-de-sac for an artist who is surely talented enough to create music without technically resurrecting art-



Bette Midler — the singer and comedienne pays tribute to girl groups

ists who have no say in the matter. A sample is one thing but to tamper with these artists' music within the genres in which they excelled is questionable.

Muddy dance anthems come with an Ibiza twist from synth pop veterans **Erasure** on new album **The Violet Flame**. The duo celebrate nearly 30 years of hits at a sold-out Wolverhampton Civic Hall on Saturday.

Young singer-songwriter James Page, under stage name **Sivu**, creates a potent atmosphere on his debut album **Something On High**. It's a blend of tremulous vocals and haunted soundscapes with songs of isolation and yearning. Listen if you like London Grammar or Wild Beasts. He will be supporting Bombay Bicycle Club at Wolverhampton Civic on December 10.

Oohs and aahs as actors go Full Monty

The Full Monty, Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton

CLEVER casting, quality acting, fast-moving scenery, special effects — and a delightful young boy. This show has The Full Monty.

This stage production follows the story of the hit 90s movie. Set against the backdrop of industrial depression in Sheffield, six men who have fallen on hard times become strippers for one night only.

It's a feel good story, well-delivered and funny throughout with many one liners.

And, of course, a famous piece de resistance.

Gary Lucy leads the cast as Gaz, alongside ex-soap stars Louis Emerick (Horse) and Rupert Hill (Guy), Andrew Dunn, of Dinner Ladies fame as Gerald, Bobby Schofield (Lomper) and Martin Miller (Dave).

All bear striking resemblances to

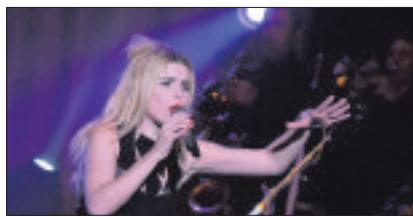
their film characters and, for the most part, had the accents off to a tee.

There were audible gasps at Lomper's suicide attempt, oohs as Guy showed off his rear, aahs at the terrific performance of Raif Clark as Gaz's son Nathan — and screams from delighted women at a finale that revealed the naked truth.

The Full Monty runs at The Grand until Saturday (November 29).

Mark Shipp

REVIEWS



Hackney soul singer Paloma Faith in action at Wolverhampton

Funky diva is back to her best at Civic Hall

Paloma Faith, Wolverhampton Civic Hall

JUST weeks after being in hospital, funky diva Paloma Faith was back to her feisty, energetic and soulful best to treat a full house Civic Hall audience to a night to remember on Saturday.

Her latest album **A Perfect Contradiction**, now out in an 'Outsiders Edition' enhanced by extra tracks, provided the material. Its blend of retro soul, funky grooves and modern R&B struck a chord with an audience who didn't seem to mind the absence of her earlier hits.

Paloma looked stunning with a blonde 60s hairstyle and short, pom-pom trimmed Natalia Kaut dress. She duetted with Brett Dennen on Van Morrison's *Crazy Love*. Californian Denmen, a *Where's Wally?* look-alike, makes up for his lack of sartorial elegance with a gentle voice and fine songs revealed during his support slot.

Paloma's show reached its climax with a storming cover version of Ike and Tina Turner's *River Deep Mountain High*, *Can't Rely On You* and her first UK No1 (achieved with Sigma) *Changing*.

LB

Sprinkle of fairy dust from Pan

Peter Pan the Musical, Bilston Operatic Company, Grand

JUST like Peter Pan himself it's a story that will never age. And Bilston Operatic Company certainly did it justice at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre.

The cast gave their all and were in good voice, especially Lucy Follows who played Wendy. Filling the famous green outfit was 17-year-old Maisie Kelly.

The well-known story takes us from the nursery from where the three children Wendy, John and Michael are whisked away by Peter Pan to the magical wonders of Neverland. But it ends on a sad note when Peter realises the people he has become close to actually do have to grow up.

Just a couple of niggles, the stage moving was a bit clumsy and the wires used for the flying scenes were noticeable, maybe a darker colour next time.

But these are picky things and overall the performance was very good. Our own little Tinkerbell in the audience certainly loved it

Sue Attwater

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Family fundraiser is in memory of comic Lee



All for grandad — the grandchildren of comedian Lee Wilson are planning a family fundraising day in his honour

THE family of Black Country comedian Lee Wilson are raising money in his name at a charity event on Sunday.

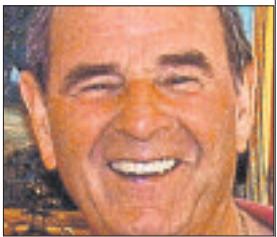
Mr Wilson, whose real name was Geoff Beards, died four weeks after being diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. A year on and four of his grandchildren are organising a fundraiser to coincide with Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month.

The event will be at the River Rooms in Stourbridge from noon to 4pm. It will feature up to 10 stalls as well as a Santa's grotto and raffle.

Cash raised will go to Pancreatic Cancer Action.

Mr Wilson, of Wedmore, died aged 74. He had turned professional in 1973, won TV talent show New Faces in 1976 and starred on TV show The Comedians. He was also a familiar face with the Black Country Night Out.

Jasper Carrott and Tom O'Connor were among the 350 people who attended his funeral at Oldswinford. He was survived by his wife Sheila and children Tracy, Lee and Debbie. Grandchildren Ellie, Libby, Emily and Sam Martin are organising the fundraiser.



Lots of laughs — comedian Lee Wilson

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UKIP hold protest on combined authority

A PROTEST will be held against plans to create a combined authority for Birmingham and the Black Country.

UKIP West Midland MEPs James Carver and Bill Etheridge have organised the protest which has been branded 'Hands off Birmingham and Hands off the Black Country'.

Sedgley-based Mr Etheridge, who is his party's candidate in Dudley North at next year's general election, said: "This protest will mark the launch of our concerted campaign against regionalisation and a combined authority. We don't want to see the centralisation of power."

"We believe local people should have a real say, at a localised level, about issues that concern them. The shift of power away from the people will deeply damage local democracy and accountability. UKIP will fight this."

Council leaders in Dudley, Sandwell, Wolverhampton, Walsall and Birmingham have agreed to set up a combined authority to take powers that may be devolved from London.

Mr Carver, UKIP's Stourbridge candidate in May's general election, described

the plan as a 'stitch-up' by Labour. He said: "It is the Labour-run authorities in Walsall, Dudley, Wolverhampton and Birmingham who want to sign away our local democracies to create a combined authority."

The protest will take place outside Dudley Council House at 5.15pm on Monday, ahead of a meeting of the council.

Meanwhile, Conservative MP for Wolverhampton South West Paul Uppal has said the Black Country does not need the help of Birmingham to grow.

He said: "I have no problems with combining services across the Black Country. Expanding this partnership to Birmingham and beyond is simply a step too far."

Fun times on menu at new arts centre



Pupils Samuel and James Checketts with head teacher Jo Davies and Councillor Tim Crumpton at the ARC

PUPILS at a Ham Dingle Primary School, in Stourbridge, have found a recipe for success after a new centre for cooking and arts was opened in the school grounds.

The centre will be used by pupils and also available to the wider community.

The facility was named ARC after brothers and pupils at the school, James and Samuel Checketts, won a competition to name the centre.

Smiles

ARC stands for Arts, Recreation and Community and the centre will be used for cooking classes, arts, music and the after-school club.

Councillor Tim Crumpton, Dudley's cabinet member for children's services, who officially cut the ribbon on the new centre, said: "Congratulations to the staff at Ham Dingle for making such a fantastic use of what was previously a caretaker's house.

"The smiles on the children's faces say it all as it's given them a fantastic place to do their arts, cookery and music."



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Benefits shake-up to leave more facing debt

CHANGES to benefits will mean thousands of council house tenants fall into debt.

An organisation in charge of council housing is warning people that they face being evicted unless they keep on top of their money as a new system sees them paid into their bank accounts, instead of benefits going to their landlords.

Wolverhampton Homes expects that Universal Credit will eventually affect around 8,500 of tenants in its 23,000 homes.

There were half a million working age people on benefits in February this year in the West Midlands. They included 30,125 in Dudley.

Universal Credit is replacing Jobseeker's Allowance, housing benefit, working tax credit, child tax credit, employment and support allowance and income support.

It will begin to be rolled out in the West Midlands from February, initially only to new claimants of working age. It means anyone on benefits at the time it is introduced will not be immediately affected, but anyone who loses their job or has to begin claiming welfare for another reason will be put on it.

Wolverhampton Homes is warning of a risk of people falling behind with their

payments as they will be responsible for using their benefits to pay the landlord, rather than the money being transferred directly to the housing provider.

Mark Henderson, director of housing, said: "There is a risk to the payment cycle. Some people will have large amounts of money paid each month that they would not have had before because it's currently paid weekly or fortnightly."

"There's a risk of temptation. With the initial small numbers we will have the resource to ring people one to one. But as numbers grow that won't be possible."

It is expected that around 30 per cent of tenants affected will find it difficult to pay. Universal Credit will be rolled out in full by 2017.

Customers create room for reflection



Simon Harwood, of Mary Stevens Trading, with (centre) Mike Brown, of Dreamland Beds, and Matron Claire Towns

MARY Stevens Hospice in Stourbridge has opened a new room for reflection following a generous donation of £25,000.

The money came from long-time supporter Mike Brown and the customers of his store, Dreamlands Beds in Mill Street, Brierley Hill. It will also be spent on new beds at the hospice.

Matron Claire Towns said: "We are extremely grateful to Mike and all his customers for their continued support of the hospice. The Peace Room is a fantastic new edition that will provide patients and relatives with a quiet space for private reflection."

Mr Brown said: "It's fantastic that over the last few years, donations from our customers have been given via our delivery service of taking old beds away and assembling new ones."

"It has raised more than £100,000 for Mary Stevens Hospice and has also made it possible for us to supply new beds for the hospice, vans for collection and fitting out hospice shops."

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Bishop backs advent calendar

A CHARITY advent calendar being sold to help raise money for a baby clinic in Kenya is being supported by the Bishop of Worcester.

The Rt Revd Dr John Inge is backing the Real Advent Calendar produced by the Meaningful Chocolate Company.

Officials are hoping to fund equipment for a baby clinic in Kenya by donating £10,000 from the sales.

Behind the calendar's first giant window is a 32-page Christmas story-activity booklet designed to be used every day in Advent.

The booklet gives more detail about the Christmas story and has seven advent challenges.

The calendar also comes with 25 Fair-trade Belgian chocolates and a line of the Christmas story behind each of the foiled windows.

The Real Advent Calendar costs £3.99 and can be purchased by visiting the website www.realadvent.co.uk

Respected astrologer and journalist has died aged 84

AN ASTROLOGER who forecast the Zeebrugge ferry disaster has died, aged 84.

Dennis Elwell of Stourbridge had feared shipping companies' safety procedures were not adequate.

Two weeks after P&O Ferries wrote to him dismissing his warning, their ship the Herald of Free Enterprise capsized off Zeebrugge, Belgium, in 1987. More than 190 people died in the tragedy, which led to new safety regulations in the British ferry industry.

Mr Elwell had also made predictions about dangers facing underground transport. In the same year there was a devastating fire in London's King's Cross station – something he had

warned of in an interview with The Chronicle's sister newspaper the Express & Star.

Sceptics criticised the basis for his predictions but Mr Elwell appeared on the BBC's Kilroy programme in 1987 and featuring in a Channel 4 documentary, Witness, in 2000 which examined the rising influence of astrology.

The father-of-four taught himself the basics of astrology before having an article he wrote on reincarnation published in the magazine Prediction at the age of 19. This set him on the path to a long career writing regularly for American Astrology, lecturing all over the world and writing a book and numerous articles on the subject. He set up a problem-solving consultancy, helping many people including celebrities, and also provided teaching to budding astrologers through

his distance learning course. His 1987 work Cosmic Loom is a recommended text among astrologers.

Mr Elwell also worked for 30 years as a journalist on the County Express, which later became the Stourbridge News.

He had lived in the Stourbridge area all his life and had recently moved to Abele View Care Home, where he was receiving round the clock support for vascular dementia.

Yet right up until the last few days of his life, Mr Elwell had fascinated staff by explaining the thinking behind theories of the stars and their influence on human lives.

Sarah Smith, one of Mr Elwell's four children, said: "My father was an original thinker who was widely respected in his field."

Two charged after fatal crash

TWO men have been charged after a crash that killed a former King Edward VI College student. Rebecca McManus, 21, of Oldbury, was at a bus stop on Hagley Road West, Bearwood, when it was struck by a Mitsubishi said to have been driven by sales rep Sukhinder Mannan, 32.

Mrs McManus died at the scene on May 31. A friend, also 21, was seriously hurt.

Mannan, of Roundhills Road, Halesowen, was arrested shortly after the crash. Computer engineer Inderjit Singh, from Cranbourne Avenue, Ettingshall, was arrested on June 15. Both were charged with causing death by dangerous driving and causing serious injury through dangerous driving. Mannan was charged with failing to provide a blood sample. Singh faces a count of failing to stop at the scene. They appear at Sandwell Magistrates Court on Tuesday.

Bliss family group on hunt for packers



Yvonne Artiss with youngest Bliss member Lexi Haffner

A CHARITY that supports families whose children spent time in neonatal or intensive care units will be holding a fundraising bag pack at Sainsbury's Merry Hill.

Dudley Bliss were selected as the supermarket's charity of the year back in July and, on December 20 and 21, parent-volunteers will be in store holding a bag-packing event to raise as much money as possible.

The search is also on for any extra volunteers willing to lend a hand for the day.

Parent-volunteer Stacey Tyler-Crisp said: "If anyone can help please get in touch as we need more than 10 people to add to our current list of bag packers to make the event possible."

Earlier this month, staff members Laura Tolley and Yvonne Artiss visited Dudley Bliss to take part in a baby sensory session where they handed over £100 worth of sensory toys bought from the money they had raised. Anyone interested in helping out can call dudleybliss@live.co.uk or visit www.dudleybliss.org.

The charity launched in April 2009.

Helicopter patrol along power lines

HELICOPTER patrols are being carried out across the Black Country and Worcestershire as part of checks on power lines.

Western Power Distribution (WPD) will be doing inspection work during December and January. The helicopters will be used to spot potential hazards on the high voltage overhead network.

Robin Tutcher, Chief Pilot at WPD, said: "Using a helicopter for patrols is the safest, fastest and most effective way to carry out checks on large sections of the network.

"Taking this bird's eye view enables us to check large areas quickly. We're able to spot potential hazards early so that our engineers can plan investment and maintenance work more effectively, and do any necessary work before it causes problems for our customers."

The patrols will be on the look-out for trees growing into overhead lines, which cause problems in stormy weather.

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Seven days

Selected departure dates 2015

PRICE FROM £749

- Return flights
- Six nights bed and breakfast accommodation
- Three dinners
- Guided tours of Barcelona and Tarragona
- Timed and guided visit of Sagrada Familia
- Guided tour of Poblet Monastery
- Visits to Girona, a Cava vineyard, and Montserrat's Benedictine monastery
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Riviera Travel (ABTA V4744, ATOL 3430)

André Rieu and the Johann Strauss Orchestra in Maastricht

Three days departing July 10

PRICE FROM £269

- Return coach travel and Channel crossings
- Two nights bed and breakfast accommodation
- Seated ticket to see André Rieu and The Johann Strauss Orchestra on the Vrijthof Square in Maastricht (ticket upgrades offered)
- Visit to Maastricht
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Five-day coach break plus Eurostar/air breaks also offered

Organised by Newmarket Promotions (ABTA V787X)

Pompeii, Capri and the Bay of Naples

Eight days various departure dates 2015

PRICE FROM £809

- Return flights
- Seven nights half-board accommodation in a choice of three and four star hotels
- Guided tour of Pompeii and walking tour of Sorrento
- Visit to Naples including the Archaeological Museum
- Cruise to Capri
- Visits to the volcano of Vesuvius and Ravello
- Tour of the Amalfi coast
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Certain entrance fees payable locally

Organised by Riviera Travel (ABTA V4744, ATOL 3430)

The Dawlish Railway and the Avocet Line

Four days departing March 27

PRICE FROM £229

- Return coach travel
- Three nights half-board accommodation
- Railway journey on the Riviera Line from Exeter to Paignton
- Cruise of the River Exe with cream tea
- Railway journey on the Avocet Line from Topsham to Exmouth
- Free time in Exmouth and Torquay
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Scarborough, Whitby and York

Four days departing April 10

PRICE FROM £219

- Return coach travel
- Three nights half-board accommodation
- Visits to Scarborough, Whitby, York and Harrogate
- Optional North Yorkshire Moors Railway excursion
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Call the Midwife

Two days departing May 16, Jul 25, Oct 3

PRICE FROM £125

- Return coach travel
- Overnight bed and breakfast accommodation
- Visit with entrance to London's Dockyard in Chatham, including a 90-minute guided Call the Midwife tour
- Visit to Canterbury
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Newmarket Promotions (ABTA V787X)

Bletchley Park The Secrets of War

Two days departing May 23 and October 3

PRICE FROM £119

- Return coach travel
- Overnight half-board accommodation
- Visit to Bletchley Park
- Visit to Oxford
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Newmarket Promotions (ABTA V787X)

London Theatre breaks by coach

Two days selected weekend departure dates



PRICE FROM £139.95

London is the natural home of theatre and the musical is king in the capital's world-famous West End. British musicals that prove a runaway success here often go on to triumph on Broadway and around the globe.

The winning combination of engaging writing, captivating stage design and commanding performance has enabled London theatres to achieve box office smashes time and time again. And it's the songs that make people return to the capital a number of times and some of the most well-known tunes have become part of the national canvas.

There are two options travelling by coach from which to choose, Saturday Night Theatre or a Theatre Weekend with dinner.

The Saturday Night theatre break, from £139.95, includes a ticket for the evening show, whereas the Theatre Weekend with dinner option starts from £149.95 and includes an evening meal following the matinee performance.

Both trips include return coach travel, a choice of theatre ticket from an extensive list of shows, overnight bed and breakfast accommodation in an outer-London four-star hotel, along with some free time in the capital for shopping or sightseeing.

Pick-ups offered are Dudley, Shrewsbury, Telford, Walsall and Wolverhampton.

*The from price and price bands vary for each show – see brochure/web page for details.

Single room supplements apply.

Organised by Omega Events (ABTA Y590X)



Valentines London break with a Queen of Hearts Afternoon Tea

Two days departing February 15



Pick of the week

PRICE FROM £179

Treat your loved one to a Valentines break to remember next year staying at a four-star hotel in the heart of the capital.

The highlight of this short break will surely be the Alice in Wonderland inspired afternoon tea, served in the renowned Scoff & Banter restaurant at the four-star Radisson Blu Edwardian New Providence Wharf Hotel, which has breathtaking river views overlooking the Thames.

With little 'eat me' labels and heart shaped sandwiches, it's a magical dining experience that brings the timeless novel to life.

PRICE INCLUDES

- Return coach travel
- Overnight bed and breakfast accommodation at the four-star Radisson Blu Edwardian New Providence Wharf hotel
- Queen of Hearts Afternoon Tea
- Thames Clipper from Canary Wharf to central London
- Visit to Greenwich
- Free time in London
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Starting at Canary Wharf the Thames Clipper journey along the river takes in the sights of London at a leisurely pace. Cruise past Tower Bridge, HMS Belfast, the Tower of London and St Paul's Cathedral before disembarking at Embankment Pier, where there will be time to explore London at leisure.

Free time in Greenwich is also on the itinerary. Maybe explore one of London's best covered markets, with up to 120 stalls showing craft and design. Other free attractions here include the National Maritime Museum and Royal Observatory.

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Austrian Tyrol and Innsbruck

Eight days selected departures 2015



Pick of the week

PRICE FROM £969

Experience some of the world's most breathtaking alpine scenery whilst staying in the charming village of Seefeld - a perfect spot from which to explore the varied highlights of the Tyrol.

Just a short drive away is the Tyrolean capital of Innsbruck where a guided tour of this delightful city will introduce some of the historic architecture. See the famous Golden Roof, St Jakob's cathedral and the former Imperial Palace.

Head back in time, during the journey to Jenbach, on the Achenseebahn narrow gauge railway as it winds its way into the hills from the Inn Valley up to the Achensee Lake. The coal-fired locomotives are amongst the world's oldest and use rack assistance to surmount the steep gradient. A visit is then made to the historic village of Rattenburg, the Tyrol's smallest municipality, with its medieval stone buildings and narrow streets.

A drive into nearby Bavaria leads to one of Germany's most famous monuments - Neuschwanstein Castle, with its impressive architecture and an inspiration for so many stories, where there is a guided tour.

The spa town of Merano, with its Belle Époque buildings and fine gardens set between the high mountain peaks, along with the regions capital Bolzano, which boasts many castles and fortified buildings, a historic centre and gothic cathedral, are both on the itinerary of the Italian Tyrol tour.

PRICE INCLUDES

- Return flights
- Seven nights half-board accommodation
- Guided sightseeing tour of Innsbruck
- Entrance and guided tour of Stams Monastery and Neuschwanstein Castle
- Journey on the Achensee Cog Steam Railway
- Tour of the Italian Tyrol visiting Bolzano and Merano
- Visit to Rattenburg
- See the Ötztal valley glaciers
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Riviera Travel (ABTA V4744, ATOL 3430)

Emmerdale Country and the Best of Yorkshire

Three days departing May 1, Jun 19, Sep 25

PRICE FROM £159

- Return coach travel
- Two nights half-board accommodation
- Tours of Emmerdale and the Yorkshire Dales
- Short tour of Last of the Summer Wine country
- Visit to Holmfirth
- Visit to York
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Newmarket Promotions (ABTA V787X)

The Crown Jewels and Thames Dinner Cruise

Two days departing May 17 and Sept 20

PRICE FROM £169

- Return coach travel
- Overnight bed and breakfast accommodation
- Entrance to the Tower of London including the Crown Jewels exhibition
- Evening cruise on the River Thames including a hot two-course buffet dinner with a glass of wine
- Free time in London
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Newmarket Promotions (ABTA V787X)

Carcassonne, Avignon and Provence

Six days various departure dates 2015

PRICE FROM £449

- Return flights
- Five nights bed and breakfast accommodation
- Guided walking tour and time to explore Carcassonne
- Full day visit to Avignon and the Roman Pont du Gard
- Canal du Midi cruise
- All coaching in France
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Newmarket Air Holidays (ABTA V7812, ATOL 2325)

Krakow

Four days various departure dates 2015

PRICE FROM £419

- Return flights
- Three nights bed and breakfast accommodation
- Guided walking sightseeing tour of Krakow
- Visit to Wawel, the castle district
- Visit to Auschwitz-Birkenau (included but optional)
- Optional tour of the Salt Mines
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Riviera Travel (ABTA V4744, ATOL 3430)

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Windsor Castle and Treasures from the Royal Archive

Two days departing January 21

PRICE FROM £119

- Return coach travel
- Overnight half-board accommodation
- Visit to Windsor Castle and Treasures from the Royal Archives exhibition
- Visit to St Albans
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Florimania at Hampton Court Palace

Two days departing March 14

PRICE FROM £109

- Return coach travel
- Overnight half-board accommodation
- Entrance to Hampton Court Palace and gardens for Florimania
- Visit to Windsor
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Bath and Oxford Buy one get one free

Two days departing March 22

PRICE FROM £155

- Return coach travel
- Overnight bed and breakfast accommodation
- Visit to Oxford
- Visit to Bath
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Jersey For single travellers

Five days departing March 23

PRICE FROM £349

- Return flights
- Four nights half-board accommodation
- Return airport to hotel transfers in Jersey
- Welcome drink on arrival
- Half day island tour
- Dinner dance with entertainment
- No single room supplement

Organised by Modern Hotels (ABTA V3101, ATOL 0752)

Strawberry Fields Penny Lane and the Cavern Club

Three days departing May 29 and Sep 19

PRICE FROM £179

- Return coach travel
- Two nights half-board accommodation
- Beatles coach tour and entrance to the Cavern Club
- Journey on the Ferry 'cross the Mersey
- Free time in Liverpool
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Newmarket Promotions (ABTA V787X)

In Search of the Northern Lights

Evening excursion departing January 21, February 16 and 18

PRICE FROM £199.95

- Pre-flight illustrated presentation by expert astronomers
- Flight in search of the Northern Lights of 3-3 3/4 hours
- Services of the astronomers on board
- Light refreshments on board
- Services of a tour manager

Organised by Omega Holidays (ABTA V4782, ATOL 6081)

Six days various departure dates 2015

PRICE FROM £449

- Return flights
- Five nights bed and breakfast accommodation
- Guided walking tour and time to explore Carcassonne
- Full day visit to Avignon and the Roman Pont du Gard
- Canal du Midi cruise
- All coaching in France
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Newmarket Air Holidays (ABTA V7812, ATOL 2325)

Lake Garda Venice and Verona

Eight days various departure dates 2015

PRICE FROM £629

- Return flights
- Seven nights half-board accommodation
- Tour of Lake Garda
- Guided sightseeing tours of Venice and Verona
- Tour of the Dolomites (with an optional cable car ride payable locally)
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Riviera Travel (ABTA V4744, ATOL 3430)



Detecting a gem available on DVD
ON a comedy scene that seems to be getting increasingly cruel and vulgar, recent rural sitcom Detectorists was a welcome dose of gently-paced whimsy on BBC4.

Written and directed by Mackenzie Crook (from The Office), he and Toby Jones (Infamous/Marvellous) play a pair of metal detector enthusiasts who think they are in with a chance of discovering a buried treasure of Staffordshire Hoard proportions. They face competition from a rival metal detecting club, a bonkers landowner and flawed relationships with the opposite sex.

A nicely acted ensemble piece in a market town setting, if not seen it is worth discovering now on DVD.

Leon Burakowski

South songs will fill the Civic Hall

THE songs of The Beautiful South and new album What Have We Become will be heard by a full house at Wolverhampton Civic Hall on Friday for Paul Heaton and Jacqui Abbott.

On Friday Peter Gabriel is at the LG Arena, Diversity dance at the NIA, and Gertcha duo Chas & Dave are at Birmingham Town Hall. Synth pop pair Erasure have filled the Civic Hall on Saturday, the same night Wolverhampton's Scott Matthews performs his haunting album Home Part 1 at Birmingham Town Hall. McBusted and Ed Sheeran are among Saturday's acts at Free Radio Live at the LG Arena.

Oh what a night as the Jersey Boys arrive for festive season

Giving Peace a chance

ROCK band Peace follow their acclaimed debut album In Love with their second album, Happy People, on February 9.

The guitar crashing lo-fi outfit bring their surly sound home to the West Midlands for a gig at Birmingham's Institute on January 24.

Droitwich brothers Harry and Sam Koisser joined forces with Doug Castle and Dom Boyce at Worcester Sixth Form College.

In 2014 the band played the main stage of Reading and Leeds festival, sold out numerous dates throughout the UK and released singles Money and Lost on Me.

Fans of Bombay Bicycle Club will get a preview of the new songs with Peace due to support them at Wolverhampton Civic Hall on December 10.



Happy People — Worcestershire rock band Peace are unveiling their 'scuzzy but beautiful' new album, mostly produced by Arctic Monkeys and Kasabian producer Jim Abbiss

JERSEY Boys has now been seen by over 19 million people worldwide and is firmly established as one of the London West End's most popular shows.

Now the show comes to Birmingham on tour, running at the New Alexandra Theatre from December 9 to January 4.

It tells the remarkable true story of Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons and their rise to stardom from the wrong side of the track. These four boys from New Jersey became one of the most successful bands in pop history, were inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame and sold 175 million records worldwide, all before they turned 30.

Telling their story from the 1950s to 70s, the show is packed with their hits, including Beggin', Sherry, Walk Like A Man, December, 1963 (Oh What a Night), Big Girls Don't Cry, My Eyes Adored You, Let's Hang On (To What We've Got), Bye Bye Baby, Can't Take My Eyes Off You, Working My Way Back to You, Fallen Angel, Rag Doll and Who Loves You.

Worldwide

Jersey Boys is the winner of 55 major awards worldwide, including the Olivier Award for Best New Musical. The show originally opened on Broadway in 2006, receiving the Tony Award for Best Musical. It is still running on Broadway, in Las Vegas and in the West End.

Joining West End star Tim Driesen as Frankie Valli are Stephen Webb, Sam Ferrihy and Lewis Griffiths, playing Tommy DeVito, Bob Gaudio and Nick Massi respectively. Matt Corrieri will play the role of Frankie Valli at certain performances. Also in the cast will be Sean Kingsley as Gyp DeCarlo, Matt Gillett as Bob Crewe, Nathaniel Morrison as Barry Belson and Damian Buhagiar as Joey Pesci, the early fan and 'go fer' who became a movie star.

The actual Frankie Valli brings the latest incarnation of The Four Seasons to Birmingham's Genting Arena (formerly the LG) on July 2 next year.



A scene from hit musical Jersey Boys

Meanwhile, on Wednesday, December 3, the Robin 2 at Bilston hosts seated show Jersey Boy with Stephen James performing the Frankie Valli story with the help of video projection.

The Mount Pleasant venue has more nostalgia on the way. From The Jam, featuring Jam bassist Bruce Foxton, celebrate the 35-year-old Setting Sons album tomorrow night (Friday). Then Nick Dagger and The Counterfeit Stones want to spend the night together on Saturday. Bad Manners bring boisterous ska on December 11, Ray Jackson's Lindisfarne play on December 15 and it's Merry Xmas Everybody from Dave Hill and Don Powell's Slade on December 18.

Popular ballet is a Christmas cracker

IT'S beginning to feel a lot like Christmas... especially now that The Nutcracker is arriving at Birmingham Hippodrome.

The Birmingham Royal Ballet's annual festive treat for its home city is a feel-good seasonal spectacular and a much-loved part of the build up to Christmas in the West Midlands.

It tells the story of a young girl, Clara, who is whisked off to a magical land on Christmas Eve after her brave Nutcracker soldier fights an army of rats. Highlights include the Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy.

Sir Peter Wright's The Nutcracker, featuring the beautiful music of Tchaikovsky, will be staged from tomorrow (Friday) until December 13.

Rocker Joe now faces worlds war

HE dazzled the nation paying tribute to his rock heroes Led Zeppelin and Black Sabbath on The X Factor. Now former bricklayer and salesman Joe Whelan, from Wolverhampton, is to appear at the LG Arena as part of the final arena tour for Jeff Wayne's spectacular musical version of War of the Worlds.

The Martians arrive at the LG on Friday, December 5. Joe features alongside Jason Donovan, Westlife's Brian McFadden, X Factor winner Shayne Ward, West End star Carrie Hope Fletcher, a string orchestra and a hologram of Liam Neeson.

Let Us Entertain You!

If you wish to appear in this weekly section telephone the Chronicle Team...

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THE SHUGBOROUGH CHRISTMAS FAIR

Friday 28 Saturday 29 & Sunday 30 November

Come and enjoy some seasonal shopping in the fabulous setting of the Hall grounds where you'll be able to sample and buy everything from our wide range of arts, craft and gift stalls with anything from jewellery and other accessories including handicrafts hand made cards, photography candles, aromatherapy products, through to ceramics and wood turning. Food and drink would include wine, real-food as well as chocolates and many other confections. And there's an extra special seasonal treat in the magnificent Mansion House. It will re-open especially during the Christmas Fair, offering you a glimpse of how the Victorians decorated their grand houses for Christmas. The house will be filled with fresh flowers and lit by the light of hundreds of candles – the pièce de résistance being the magnificent candlelit 300-year-old chandelier. Shugborough Cardinall Mansion House will open from 11am to 4pm with the downstairs area decorated throughout with fresh flowers, Christmas decorations and trees.

The Fair is open between 10am - 4pm each day

Shugborough Estate Milford Staffordshire ST17 0XB
admission: £9 concessions: £7.50 (combined ticket includes admission to both House and Fair)
Single tickets will be available to purchase at the gate on the day at a cost of £5 adults, £4 concessions
children aged 12 and under FREE if accompanied by an adult - admission discounts at oakleighfairs.co.uk/shugchrist

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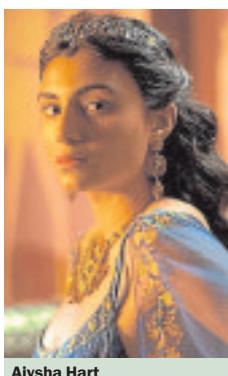
Saturdays 9.00am - 5pm & Sundays: 9.30am - 5pm

(We are closed Christmas Day and Boxing Day)



SATURDAY'S TV NOVEMBER 29

CHOICE



Aiysha Hart

Atlantis (BBC1, 8.15pm)

Rather like the recent run of Doctor Who, at first glance it may appear that Atlantis is a classic teatime show that has somehow been shoehorned into a post-8pm slot by mistake. However, Sarah Parish, who plays the scheming Pasiphae, recently revealed that the makers knew the second series would be airing at a later time, and took the opportunity to make the new run a little darker. So, consider yourself forewarned as this week Ariadne is formally crowned Queen, but has more than just ruling a battle-scarred city to worry about, especially with Pasiphae still at large. Meanwhile, Jason faces a struggle for his own as he fights for glory on the tournament ground. Jack Donnelly, Aiysha Hart and Mark Addy star.

BBC1

- 6.00 Breakfast.** **10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live.** **11.30 James Martin: Home Comforts.** **12.00 BBC News: Weather.** **12.10 Football Focus.** **12.50 Saturday Sportsday.** **1.00 Snooker: UK Championship.** The second round continues at the Barbican Centre in York. **2.00 Live International Rugby Union: Wales v South Africa (kick-off 2.30pm).** **4.30 Final Score.** **5.25 Celebrity Mastermind.** With Tony Livesey, Ava Vidal, Monty Halls and the Rev Richard Coles. **(R) 5.55 BBC News: Regional News: Weather.**
- 6.10 Pointless Celebrities.** Panellists including Lionel Blair, Wayne Sleep, Karen Barber and Louise Spence join hosts Alexander Armstrong and Richard Osman for a dance edition of the general knowledge quiz.
- 7.00 Strictly Come Dancing.** Tess Daly and Claudia Winkleman present as twinkle-toed couples perform a series of routines on Around the World theme - all of which come from different parts of the globe. The professionals get things going with a Hollywood-style group routine before the remaining seven celebrities battle it out on the dance floor, hoping to impress the viewers and judges, whose decision is getting tougher each week. The results are tomorrow at 7.15pm.
- 8.15 Atlantis.** The city remains vulnerable in the aftermath of the battle, so when a stranger offers salvation Ariadne finds him hard to resist. Jason fights for glory on the tournament grounds.
- 9.00 Casualty.** Ash is angered by a patient's lifestyle choice, Big Mac treats an old lady who has foiled a robbery and Ethan has a breakthrough.
- 9.50 The National Lottery Live.** Jenni Falconer hosts the Lotto and Thunderball draws.
- 10.00 BBC News: Weather.**
- 10.20 Match of the Day.** Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League clashes, including Sunderland v Chelsea and West Bromwich Albion v Arsenal; National Lottery Update.
- 11.50 The Football League Show.** Manish Bhambhani highlights and all the goals from the latest fixtures in the Championship, League One and League Two.
- 1.10 Weather for the Week Ahead.** **1.15 BBC News.**

BBC2

- 6.00 CBBC.** **11.00 The Blue Planet.** (R) **12.00 Rick Stein's Far Eastern Odyssey.** **(R) 1.00 Escape to the Country.** (R) **2.00 Live Snooker: UK Championship.** The second round continues at the Barbican Centre in York. **2.00 Live International Rugby Union: Wales v South Africa (kick-off 2.30pm).** **4.30 Final Score.** **5.25 Celebrity Mastermind.** With Tony Livesey, Ava Vidal, Monty Halls and the Rev Richard Coles. **(R) 5.55 BBC News: Regional News: Weather.**
- 6.00 Natural World: Jungle Gremilns of Java.** (R)
- 7.00 Flog It!** Mark Stacey and Adam Partridge value items in Bangor, north Wales. (R)
- 8.00 Perry and Crisp: Made in Britain.** The celebration of comedy writing duo David Croft and Jimmy Perry continues with an examination of how their sitcoms chronicled British people's attitudes to love and sex.
- 8.30 Dad's Army.** Sergeant Wilson inherits a title following the death of an elderly relative and joins the Mainwaring's annoyance. (R)
- 9.00 QI XL.** Extended edition. Josh Widdicombe, Alan Davies, Tony Hawks and Alan Davies attempt to answer Stephen Fry's range of fiendish questions on the topics of love and loneliness.
- 9.45 Tomorrow's Worlds: The Unearthly History of Science Fiction.** Dominic Sandbrook examines sci-fi's obsession with alien invasion, from all-out assault to sinister hidden threats. He explores how it has reflected real-life anxieties – whether they be the challenge to Victorian imperial power in HG Wells' *The War of the Worlds*, the Cold War paranoia in Invasion of the Body Snatchers or more recent concerns about racism and immigration in 2009 movie District 9. He also celebrates one of the most famous alien invaders of all time – the Dalek. Featuring contributions by Doctor Who showrunner Steven Moffat and star David Tennant, actor Richard Dreyfuss, Independence Day director Roland Emmerich and special effects supervisors Phil Tippett and Douglas Trumbull.
- 10.45 Intruders.** Jack makes a gruesome discovery in his back garden, while Gary realises how to expose the corruption behind Qui Reverti, but it demands an unthinkable sacrifice.
- 11.55 ITV News: Weather.** **12.15 Film:** Corngrow's Hat. (1968) **1.50** Jackpot! (3.20) **2.00** Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) **3.45** ITV Nightscreen.

ITV

- 6.00 CITV: The Aquabats! Super Show!** **6.25 Pat & Stan.** (R) **6.35 Pat & Stan.** (R) **6.40 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures.** (R) **6.50 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures.** (R) **7.05 Cannimals.** (R) **7.10 Cannimals.** (R) **7.20 Sighn Stories: Share a Story.** (R) **7.25 Spooky.** (R) **8.35 Mr Bean: The Animated Series.** (R) **9.00 The Chronicles.** **8.15 Hornid Henry.** **8.20 The Munch Box.** **8.25 Dinner Date.** (R) **10.20 Murder, She Wrote.** **11.15 ITV News: Weather.** **11.20 All Star Family Fortunes.** (R) **12.05 Surprise Surprise.** (R) **1.05 Doc Martin.** (R) **2.05 Keep It in the Family.** (R) **3.10 Film:** Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone. (2001) Fantasy adventure, starring Daniel Radcliffe.
- 6.00 Regional Programme:** Weather.
- 6.15 ITV News: Weather.**
- 6.30 New You've Been Framed!** Comedy from the mind of Harry Hill, inspired by viewers' videos, featuring a squirrel stealing a smartphone, a fox attacking a golfer and the Smart who falls victim to a toddler.
- 7.00 The Chase: Celebrity Special.** Chat-show host Jonathan Ross, comedienne and writer Kaye Brand, Watchdog's Chris Hollins and model Jo Wood take on a trivia expert for charity. Bradley Walsh asks the questions.
- 8.00 The X Factor.** The aspiring pop stars hope to turn another week of rehearsals into a winning performance as they battle for places in next week's semi-final. Judges Simon Cowell, Cheryl Fernandez-Versini, Mel B and Louis Walsh listen out for flat notes as the contestants face their most important performances yet. Will any of them disappoint at this crucial stage of the competition? Dermot O'Leary is the host. The results are tomorrow at 8pm.
- 9.45 I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here!** Ant and Dec present all the highs and lows from the past 24 hours in the Australian jungle as the campmates spend another day battling bugs and Bush Tucker Trials.
- 10.50 The Jonathan Ross Show.** The host chats to James McAvoy, Phillip Schofield, Sarah Millican, Jessica Ennis-Hill and Barry Manilow, who also performs.
- 11.55 ITV News: Weather.** **12.15 Film:** Corngrow's Hat. (1968) **1.50** Jackpot! (3.20) **2.00** Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) **3.45** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

- 6.15 Snowman Triathlon.** **6.40 Cycling Revolution Series.** **7.40 A Day at the Races.** (R) **7.55 The Morning Line.** **9.00 Weekend Kitchen.** **10.00 Everybody Loves Raymond.** (R) **10.30 Frasier.** (R) **11.00 The Big Bang Theory.** **11.30 The Big Bang Theory.** **11.55 The Simpsons.** (R) **12.25 Marvel's Agents of SHIELD.** (R) **12.25 Chasing Rainbows.** Live coverage from Newbury and Newcastle. **4.00 Come Dine with Me.** (R) **4.25 Come Dine with Me.** (R) **5.00 Come Dine with Me.** (R) **6.00 Come Dine with Me.** (R) **6.30 Channel 4 News.**
- 7.00 Woolly Mammoth: The Autopsy.** The discovery of an extraordinarily well-preserved woolly mammoth in Siberia last year has quickened the pace of one of the most ambitious and controversial projects in science since cloning of this iconic giant of the Ice Age. When it was dug out of the permafrost, a dark red liquid oozed from the frozen body. Could it be blood? This documentary follows an international team of experts carrying out a historic autopsy on the carcass and gains access to the leading mammoth de-extinction programmes happening now in the US and South Korea. (R)
- 8.00 Walking Through History: England's Last Battle - West Country.** Tony Robinson hikes up from Lyme Regis in Dorset to the Somerset Levels telling the story of the 1685 Monmouth Rebellion, an attempt to overthrow James II. Last with Jason Statham and Jet Li.
- 9.00 Film: The Inbetweeners Movie.** (2011) An awkward teenagers Simon, Will, Jay and Neil plan a holiday to the Greek island of Crete after they finish their exams, hoping to experience drink, sex and debauchery beyond their wildest dreams. However, things do not quite work out as planned. Comedy, with Joe Thomas, Simon Bird, James Buckley and Blake Harrison.
- 11.00 Film: The Sitter.** (2011) Première. An irresponsible babysitter leads his three charges through a series of dangerous adventures on New York's mean streets. Comedy, starring Jon Hamm.
- 12.40 Film: Boondocking.** (1992) **2.40** Hollywoods. (R) **4.40 StarStrimmers.** **5.00 Location, Location, Location.** (R) **5.55 NFL: Rush Zone.**

CHANNEL 5

- 6.00 Milkshake!** **10.00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles.** (R) **10.35 Access.** **10.40 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away.** (R) **11.40 Film:** Lost at Christmas. (2007) Fact-based drama, starring Dylan Walsh and Jamie Gertz. **1.25 Film:** The March Sisters. (2012) Premiere. Drama, starring Julia Marie Bernan.
- 3.10 Film:** I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus. (2002) Family comedy, starring Connie Sellecca. **5.00 Film:** A Fairytale Christmas. (2013) Premiere. Romantic drama, starring C Thomas Howell and Haylie Duff.
- 6.45 News Weekend.**
- 6.50 Film:** The Bridge at Remagen. (1969) As Allied forces prepare for a major assault on Germany, a small unit of American soldiers is sent to capture a strategically important bridge over the Rhine – but German forces are determined to prevent the Allied advance, and seek to destroy it. Second World War adventure, starring George Segal, Robert Vaughn, Ben Gazzara and Bradford Dillman. Edited for language and violence.
- 9.00 Film:** The Expendables. (2010) A mercenary leads his elite team on a mission to assassinate a South American dictator, only to find their target is merely a pawn and the real power in the country is a rogue CIA agent. Feeling he is a rogue CIA agent. Feeling he is a rogue CIA agent. Feeling he is a rogue CIA agent. Action thriller, directed by and starring Sylvester Stallone. With Jason Statham and Jet Li.
- 11.10 Film: War.** (2007) An FBI agent is drawn into warfare between Yakuza and Triad gangs as he seeks revenge on the assassin who murdered his partner. Martial arts thriller, with Jet Li.
- 1.10 SuperCasino.** Viewers get the chance to take part in live interactive gaming, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team. **3.10 Gothic.** Gordon informs Essen he plans to arrest Falcone and the mayor, while a killer is sent into police HQ to murder the detective after Fish Mooney discovers Cobblepot is still alive. **4.00 House Doctor.** Ann Maurice shows homeowners near Leamington Spa, Warwickshire, how to inject a touch of character into their bland property to make it more appealing. **(R) 4.25 Matrix.** **Big.** (R) **5.15 Angels Fall.** **Jam.** (R) **5.40 Roar!** the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

- BBC Three**
- 7.00 International Rugby Union** **8.00 Top Gear.** **9.00 Sherlock** **10.30 Live at the Apollo** **11.00 Family Guy** **1.35 Some Girls** **2.05 Live at the Apollo** **2.35 Life Is Toll** **3.05 Sweat the Small Stuff** **3.35 Fried 4.00 Close**
- BBC Four**
- 7.00 Ice Age Giants** **8.00 Sex and Sensibility:** The Allure of Art Nouveau **9.00 Inspector Montalbano** **10.40 Imagine:** Dame Shirley Bassey **11.00 Film:** The Girl from Tiger Bay **11.40 Shirley Bassey** **at the Apollo** **12.40 Top of the Pops:** 1979 **1.15 Sounds of the 70s** **1.45 Ice Age Giants** **2.45 Sex and Sensibility:** The Allure of Art Nouveau **3.45 Close**
- ITV2**
- 11.30 Film:** Free Willy 3: The Rescue (1997) **1.20 Film:** Small Soldiers (1998) **3.30 Film:** Rumor Has It (2005) **5.30 You've Been Framed!** **6.00 I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here!** **7.00 Film:** The Perfect Storm (2000) **9.45 The Xtra Factor** **10.50 I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here Now!** **11.50 The X Factor** **1.40 The Xtra Factor** **2.35 Example:** The Hot Desk **2.45 Teleshopping**
- ITV3**
- 12.50 Film:** Columbo: Swan Song (1974) **2.55 A Touch of Frost** (1985) **4.55 Agatha Christie's Marple** **6.55 Rosemary & Thyme** **8.00 Doc Martin** **9.45 Foyle's War** **11.00 A Touch of Frost** **12.40 Bomb Girls** **1.30 World Kitchen** **1.55 ITV3 Nightscreen** **2.30 Teleshopping**
- ITV4**
- 12.45 Live Darts.** The Players Championship, **5.00 Cheers** **5.30 Storage Wars** **7.00 Live Darts.** The Storage Wars Championship, **11.00 Film:** Green Street (2005) **1.10 River Monsters:** Untold Stories **2.15 Black Gold** **3.00 Teleshopping**
- ITV4**
- 11.00 Melissa & Joey** **12.00 How I Met Your Mother** **1.00 Film:** Mighty Joe Young (1998) **3.15 Rude(ish) Tube Shorts** **3.30 Made in Chelsea** **4.30 Melissa & Joey** **5.30 How I Met Your Mother** **6.00 The Big Bang Theory** **9.00 Film:** Skins (2010) **1.50 The Inbetweeners** **Top 10 Moments** **11.55 The Inbetweeners Go Global** **1.00 Rude Tube 2.00 The Inbetweeners** **Top 10 Moments** **2.55 How I Met Your Mother**
- Film4**
- 11.00 Gunman's Walk** (1958) **1.00 Fool's Gold** (2008) **3.10 Night of the Phoenix** (2004) **5.20 Meet David** (2009) **7.15 Bridget Jones** (2009) **9.00 The Taking of Pelham 123** (2009) **11.05 Watchmen** (2009) **2.15 Rec 3: Genesis** (2012)

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CHOICE**Jimmy Carr****Jimmy Carr: Laughing & Joking (Channel 4, 10pm)**

You may be surprised to know that there's a lot more to Jimmy Carr than a silly laugh and borderline offensive humour. Plenty more. Credit where credit is due after all: this man is a comedy genius with writing skills to boot - he's even penned material for Lily Savage, Bo Selecta and Meet Ricky Gervais before now. However, for those who are more than familiar with Jimmy's work and aren't satisfied with his year-round tours and television efforts in that they're just not enough to satisfy your cravings, you'll no doubt be pleased to see that he's back on our screens tonight as, filmed in November of last year at London's Hammersmith Apollo, the award-winning funnyman performs his eighth live show.

BBC1

- 6.00 Breakfast.** **7.25 Match of the Day.** (R) **9.00 The Andrew Marr Show.** **10.00** Fern Britton Meets Donny Osmond.
- 11.00 Sunday Politics.** **12.15 MDT2 Extra.** With Mark Chapman and the Match of the Day team. **1.00 BBC News;** Weather. **1.15 Bargain Hunt.** **2.15** Homes Under the Hammer. **3.15 Escape to the Country.** (R) **4.15 Songs of Praise.** **4.50 Life Story.** (R) **5.30 BBC News;** Regional News; Weather.
- 6.15** **The Home Front.** The team reports from Lancashire where John Craven uncovers a landscape that was once a true spectacle, but is now almost lost to the ravages of time.
- 7.15 Strictly Come Dancing: The Results.** Tess Daly and Claudia Winkleman reveal which couples are in the dance-off, and there are performances by Andie MacDowell and Alfie Boe, and the Lord of the Dance troupe.
- 8.00 Antiques Roadshow.** Fiona Bruce and the experts return to Towneley Hall near Burnley in Lancashire, where items include a collection of cut-throat razors, a mosaic and Lone Ranger memorabilia.
- 9.00 Remember Me.** Care worker Hannah goes to visit Tom in hospital and is shocked to hear he has escaped, so detective Rob Fairholme opens a missing persons investigation. Hannah pleads with him to search in Scarborough, haunted by the old folk songs she found in the pensioner's house, but the detective isn't convinced by her hunch and continues his search closer to home. Visiting Tom's home, he finds the ripped photo of the woman he was looking for as documents reveal she had once had a wife who was killed in tragic circumstances. Meanwhile, the post-mortem on social worker Alison Denning proves inconclusive - but oddly, it does show that the dead woman had water in her lungs.
- 10.00 BBC News;** Regional News; Weather.
- 10.30 Match of the Day 2.** Southampton v Manchester City and Tottenham Hotspur v Everton.
- 11.30 The Apprentice.** The entrepreneurs head to the Royal Ball & West Show. (R)
- 12.30 Film:** Color of Night. (1994) **2.25** Weather for the Week Ahead. **2.30 BBC News.**

BBC2

- 6.00** This Is BBC Two. **6.15 Great British Garden Revival.** (R) **7.15 Countryfile.** (R) **8.15 Glorious Gardens from Above.** (R) **9.00 The Football League Show.** (R) **10.20 Saturday Kitchen Best Bites.** **11.30 James Martin: Home Comforts.** (R) **12.15 International Rugby Union.** **1.00 Live Snooker: UK Championship.** **5.30 Glorious Games from Above.** (R)
- 6.15 Flog It!** Charlie Ross and Mark Steyvel visit collectors in Monmouth, Wales, and Paul Martin explores the countryside that inspired Laura Ashley's designs. (R)
- 7.00 Secrets of the Castle with Ruth, Peter and Tom.** The team explores the art of medieval combat and the construction of a castle's defences, examining the ingenious features 13th-century builders came up with to withstand attacks. (R)
- 8.00 The Mekong River with Sue Perkins.** The comedienne concludes her epic journey along the Southeast Asian river as she follows the Mekong through China to its source in the Himalayas. Last in the series.
- 9.00 World's Greatest Food Markets.** Billsgate merchant Roger Barton pits himself against traders at New Delhi's Azadpur fruit and vegetable market, which provides food for the whole of India. Last in the series.
- 10.00 Russell Howard's Good News.** The comedian offers his perspective on stories dominating the media, whether on television, online or in print, and he is joined by a guest with an amazing tale to tell. (R)
- 10.30 The Wrong Mans.** Sam and Phil take a wounded Marat to Phil's house, but with MI6 agent Smoke closing in on them, the hapless duo find they have become high-profile fugitives. (R)
- 11.00 The Wrong Mans.** Sam and Phil realise they must put themselves right in the line of fire to expose the plot, save Bracknell, uncover double agents and rescue their double agents. Last in the series. (R)
- 11.30 Snooker: UK Championship.** Hazel Irvine presents highlights of the evening session from the Barbican Centre in York.
- 12.10 The Score.** **2.30 Motorsport UK.** **3.20 The Jeremy Kyle Show USA.** (R) **4.05 ITV Nightscreen.** **5.05 The Jeremy Kyle Show.** (R) **3.20 Holby City.** (R) **4.20 This Is BBC Two.**

ITV

- 6.00 CITV:** The Aquabats! Super Show!
- 6.25 Pat & Stan.** (R) **6.35 Pat & Stan.**
- 6.40 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures.** (R) **6.50 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures.**
- 7.05 Cannimals.** (R) **7.10 Cannimals.**
- 7.20 Signum Stories: Share a Story.** (R) **7.30 Sunday Brunch.** **12.30 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces.** (R) **1.35 The Big Bang Theory.** **2.05 The Big Bang Theory.** (R) **2.35 The Big Bang Theory.** (R) **3.05 The Big Bang Theory.** (R) **3.35 Film:** Linkin Park (2008) **3.45 Adventure** starring Brendan Fraser. **5.45 Film:** Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs. (2009) **Animated adventure sequel, with the voice of John Goodman.**
- 7.30 Channel 4 News.**
- 8.00 The Great Wall of China: The Hidden Story.** **Secret History.** With access to the first nationwide survey and state-of-the-art drone surveys mapping the Great Wall of China, this documentary offers new evidence that reveals its extraordinary magnitude, rewrites its millennia-long history and decodes its complex signals system. Using cutting-edge chemistry, the programme also finds out what has kept the wall standing for so long - a simple cooking ingredient found in kitchens across the world.
- 9.00 Homeland.** As the CIA thriller continues, Carrie organises a last-ditch operation while Lockhart and Martha do their utmost to stall Inter-Services Intelligence. Claire Danes, Mandy Patinkin, Tracy Letts and Laila Robins star.
- 10.00 Jimmy Carr: Laughing & Joking.** Stand-up comedy with the host of 8 Out of 10 Cats, recorded at London's Hammersmith Apollo in November last year, featuring his familiar brand of near-the-knuckle humour.
- 11.05 Alan Carr: Chatty Man.** Comedian and actor Russell Brand talks about his new book Revolution, and French DJ superstar David Guetta discusses his latest single. With music from Kiesza. (R)
- 12.05 Confessions of a Doctor.** Eight doctors lift the lid on their working lives in the consulting room. (R) **1.05** According to Jim. (R) **1.25 American Football Live:** Kansas City Chiefs v Denver Broncos (Kick-off 1.30am). Coverage of the week 13 fixture from Arrowhead Stadium, where the AFC West rivals meet. **2.45** Showbiz Triathlon. Action from Snowdonia National Park. (R) **5.10 Win It Cook It.** (R) **5.35 Countdown.** (R)

CHANNEL 4**CHANNEL 4**

- 6.20 NFL:** The American Football Show.
- 6.25** **How I Met Your Mother.** (R) **7.40 How I Met Your Mother.** (R) **8.00 Everybody Loves Raymond.** (R) **8.25 Frasier.** (R) **8.55 Jamie's Comfort Food.** (R) **9.30 Sunday Brunch.** **12.30 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces.** (R) **1.35 The Big Bang Theory.** **2.05 The Big Bang Theory.** (R) **2.35 The Big Bang Theory.** (R) **3.05 The Big Bang Theory.** (R) **3.35 Film:** Make Way for Ducklings. (R) **7.25** Patrol. **7.50 Pin Ahoy!** (R) **8.00 Little Princess.** (R) **8.10 The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky.** (R) **8.25 Wanda and the Alien.** **8.35 Zack and Quack.** **9.50 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom.** (R) **9.05 Jelly-Jamm.** (R) **9.20 LazyTown.** (R) **9.50 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles.** (R) **10.25 Access.** (R) **10.30 Police Interceptors.** (R) **11.25** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.25 Police Interceptors.** (R) **13.00 Film:** Noel. (2004) **1.15 Matchmaker Santa.** (2012) **2.00 Romantic comedy, with Lucy Chabert and Adam Mayfield.** **5.00 Film:** Anne Claus Is Coming to Town. (2011) **5.15 Christmas fantasy, starring Maria Thayer.**
- 6.45 5 News Weekend.**
- 6.50 Film:** **Planet of the Apes.** (2001) An astronaut crash-lands on a strange planet and is captured and enslaved by the ruling race of highly intelligent apes. Luckily, he is helped by a sympathetic chimp who then discovers a shocking secret. Remake of the 1960s sci-fi adventure, directed by Tim Burton and starring Mark Wahlberg, Helena Bonham Carter and Tim Roth, and featuring a cameo appearance from the original film's star Charlton Heston. Edited for language.
- 10.00 Jimmy Carr: Laughing & Joking.** Stand-up comedy with the host of 8 Out of 10 Cats, recorded at London's Hammersmith Apollo in November last year, featuring his familiar brand of near-the-knuckle humour.
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CHANNEL 5

- 6.00 Milkshake! Peppa Pig.** **6.05 Roary the Racing Car.** (R) **6.15 Angelina Ballerina.** (R) **6.30 Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures.** (R) **6.35 Seaside Antics.**
- 6.40 The Mr Men Show.** (R) **6.50 Chloe's Costume.** (R) **7.05 Once Upon a Time in White Van.** (R) **7.15** **It's a Knockout in Pyjamas.** (R) **7.25** Make Way for Ducklings. (R) **7.50 Paw Patrol.** **7.55** Pin Ahoy!
- 8.00 Little Princess.** (R) **8.10 The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky.** (R) **8.25 Wanda and the Alien.** **8.35 Zack and Quack.** **9.50 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom.** (R) **9.05 Jelly-Jamm.** (R) **9.20 LazyTown.** (R) **9.50 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles.** (R) **10.25 Access.** (R) **10.30 Police Interceptors.** (R) **11.25** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.25 Police Interceptors.** (R) **13.00 Film:** Noel. (2004) **1.15 Matchmaker Santa.** (2012) **2.00 Romantic comedy, with Lucy Chabert and Adam Mayfield.** **5.00 Film:** Anne Claus Is Coming to Town. (2011) **5.15 Christmas fantasy, starring Maria Thayer.**
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DIGITAL

- BBC Three**
- 7.00** Great TV Mistakes **8.00** Doctor Who **9.00** Edinburgh Comedy Fest Live 2012 **10.00** Family Guy **10.45** American Dad! **11.30** Some Girls **12.00** Life Is Toff **12.30** Edinburgh Comedy Fest Live 2012 **1.30** Sweat the Small Stuff **2.00** The Revolution Will Be Televised
- BBC Four**
- 7.00** The Great War **7.40** Britain's Wild Places **8.00** The Day of the Triffids **9.00** Blondie: One Way or Another **10.10** Film: Ca\$h **2008** **11.50** Pink Floyd: Wish You Were Here **12.50** Play It Loud: The Story of the Marshall Amp **1.50** Great Guitar Riffs at the BBC
- ITV2**
- 11.30** The X Factor **1.25** The Xtra Factor **2.25** Kiesza: The Hot Deck **2.40** Film: Nanny McPhee and the Big Bang (2010) **4.50** I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here! **5.50** Film: She's the Man (2006) **8.00** Scorpion **9.00** The Xtra Factor **10.05** I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here Now! **11.05** Educating Joey Essex: Space Cadet **12.00** Two and a Half Men **1.00** Dads **1.25** Face Reaction **2.00** The Vampire Diaries **2.45** Kiesza: The Hot Desk
- ITV3**
- 11.20** A Touch of Frost **1.35** Film: Columbo: Negative Reaction (1974) **3.40** Film: The Nun's Story (1959) **6.45** Inspector Morse **9.00** Lewis **11.00** Wycliffe **12.10** Film: The Elephant Man (1980) **2.20** Judge Judy **3.05** ITV3 Nightscreen **3.40** Emmerdale
- ITV4**
- 12.45** Live Darts. **5.00** Alias Smith and Jones **6.00** Cheers **6.35** World of Sport: Dane Devils **6.45** Live Darts. The Players Championship. **11.00** Film: Rambo: First Blood Part II (1985) **1.00** Minder **2.00** Jean-Claude Van Damme: Behind Closed Doors **1.25** Bad Robots **1.55** New Girl **2.45** Rules of Engagement
- E4**
- 11.00** Broken Lance (1954) **1.00** Bride and Prejudice (2004) **3.15** Ramona and Beezus (2010) **5.20** Scrapped (1988) **7.15** The Plan (1980) **9.00** The Cold Light of Day (2012) **10.55** Production (2007) **12.50** A Story of Children and Film (2013) **3.05** Close

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MONDAY

The National Tree, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A loving father plants a tree the day his son is born. Years later, when the boy is a teenager, it is selected to be the national Christmas tree, so father and son embark on a life-changing journey across the country to deliver it for replanting at the White House. Drama, starring Andrew McCarthy and Evan Williams. (2009)

TUESDAY

Public Enemies, ITV, 10.40pm
Fact-based crime drama following the last years of John Dillinger, whose run of bank robberies and daring prison escapes in the 1930s make him both America's most wanted criminal and a hero to a public struggling through the Depression. His career is soon to be cut short by the birth of the FBI, which assigns its most celebrated agent to bring him to justice. Directed by Michael Mann and starring Johnny Depp, Christian Bale and Marion Cotillard. (2009)



We Own the Night, Friday, ITV, 11.15pm

WEDNESDAY

The 13th Warrior, BBC1, 12.10am
A disgraced nobleman exiled from his Baghdad home joins forces with Norse warriors at the close of the first millennium, and ends up battling seemingly invincible attackers during an epic journey. Action adventure adapted from the novel Eaten of the Dead by Michael Crichton, starring Antonio Banderas, Diane Venora, Dennis Storhi, Vladimir Kulich and Omar Sharif. (1999)

THURSDAY

Die Another Day, ITV, 10.40pm
James Bond is suspended from duty after being taken hostage in North Korea, but goes against orders to track down those who betrayed him. During the pursuit of the terrorist he was investigating before his capture, he discovers a connection with a British billionaire who has constructed a devastating orbital weapon. Spy adventure, starring Pierce Brosnan. (2002)

FRIDAY

We Own the Night, ITV, 11.15pm
The manager of a New York nightclub is caught between two worlds – while his brother and father are both highly respected police officers, most of his clientele are gangsters. Despite his best efforts not to get involved, he is forced to choose sides when gang violence escalates and his sibling is targeted by a hitman. Crime drama, starring Joaquin Phoenix, Mark Wahlberg and Robert Duvall. (2007)

New series proves to be a breeze for Richard

Fashion may come and go, but one constant in the UK is our obsession with the weather. Maybe it's the fact that as an island so small we don't generate our own weather systems but have to make do with cast-offs from other countries.

In a new series, Richard Hammond will be revealing the hidden secrets at the heart of some of the world's most extreme weather, experiencing extraordinary phenomena first-hand.

Okay, some of the dialogue may be a little redundant, such as "Wherever you live on the planet, weather shapes your world."

That aside, Hammond will be stripping weather back to its basics, and in this wind-centric opener he explains how wind begins.

He kicks things off with another spot of slightly awkward dialogue: "There is a powerful, invisible force that moves around us, almost unnoticed..."

Hmm. While the script could have done with more levity in the Top Gear vein, WWWWRH excels in the visuals department, whether it's glorious high definition cloudscapes or obligatory shots of devastation.

Given the fact a light wind on your face measures around 5mph; 15mph

is enough to turn an umbrella inside out; 45mph can wreck a garden fence, and 55mph can bring a shed down, the sight of Hammond in 65 to 85mph winds is enough to make you put an extra bar on the fire.

A good job there's subtitles as our host struggles to get his words out. Just a pity he doesn't tie his hat on.

Later, there's an experiment to create a fire whirlwind, and a tense moment when it looks like a pricey camera may have been lost in the vertical inferno.

Clearly a glutton for punishment, Richard decides to stand in the middle of a man-made tornado at the WindEEE Research Institute in Canada. It's the only place on Earth which can duplicate the dynamics of a tornado.

Little wonder Hammond gets goosebumps, and not just because he's a bit chilly.

If that leaves you hungry for more, don't miss next week's edition when 'Hamster' attempts to capture a cloud in the hope of seeing how much it weighs. Yes, really.



Wild Weather with Richard Hammond, Monday, BBC1, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY

The British Property Boom, Channel 4, 8pm

House prices have been rising at record speeds around the UK, and naturally that has far-reaching effects for many of us. This week's show investigates the impact on buyers and sellers, with first-time buyers such as Dionne used as an example of how hard it can be to get on the property ladder. She faces having to ask her retired mother, Denise, to sell the family home to stand a chance of buying her own home. We also meet Barbara, a Hackney resident who has been priced out of the area where she was born. Plus, there's a look at some of the overseas buyers purchasing investment flats in the capital that could otherwise have been snapped up by locals. And if you're wondering what the smallest house on the market in London will cost, then brace yourselves. A property measuring just six feet wide is on the market for a whopping £235,000.

TUESDAY

Autopsy: The Last Hours of Elvis Presley, Channel 5, 9pm

Dr Richard Shepherd has been linked to some of the most iconic celebrities in history – it's just a shame that none of them are alive to enjoy his company. The forensic pathologist is now famous

for his in-depth televised autopsies in which he analyses the untimely deaths of famous folk notorious for their often self-inflicted ill health. Tonight, as the title suggests, he kicks off this new series by focusing on Elvis Presley. Robert picks through the facts surrounding the singer's demise at his Memphis home Graceland in August 1977, using accounts from his best friend, his cousin and his private nurse, as well as considering all the medical facts. The programme reveals that the post-mortem report showed that towards the end of his life, nearly all of Presley's vital organs were almost double the size they should have been, and what's more, his system was full of prescription drugs.

WEDNESDAY

Living on the Edge: Blood in the Sea, Channel 5, 7pm

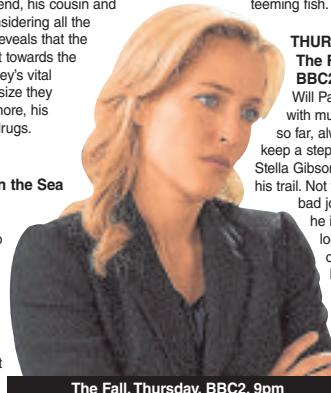
New series. Anthropologist and adventurer Chris Terrell travels to the world's most extreme environments to find out how and why people live in the grip of nature at its harshest. In the first edition, he heads to Mauritania to spend time with fishermen who work the rich but dangerous waters off the north-

west coast of Africa. Travelling from Nouadhibou in the north to the capital Nouakchott in the south, Chris and his interpreter Ahmed Taleb witness the sight of a thousand boats fighting to get through the violent surf as it breaks on to the beaches and also discover a secret paradise where the desert meets the sea and millions of birds feed on the teeming fish.

THURSDAY

The Fall, BBC2, 9pm

Will Paul Spector get away with murder? He has done so far, always managing to keep a step or two ahead of Stella Gibson, the detective on his trail. Not that she's doing a bad job – she knows who he is, she just can't locate this slippery customer. He, however, seems to know where she is all the time – and as a result, Gibson suspects he's witnessed her confrontation



The Fall, Thursday, BBC2, 9pm

with Burns in her hotel room. But how will Burns react when she tells him? As if the idea of Spector keeping tabs on her isn't disturbing enough, she then realises he's been visiting one of his surviving victims in hospital – but this fact allows her to finally set up a surveillance operation on him. But the need to find the evidence that will bring about Spector's arrest intensifies when a body matching the description of Rose Stagg is discovered.

FRIDAY

The Martin Lewis Money Show, ITV, 8pm

For a man who's become synonymous with great money saving ideas, you'd think Martin Lewis would be on a par with some of the cash-hungry wannabes in The Apprentice, but not a bit of it. "I certainly don't preach about how to make money; that's not really my thing at all, or my passion to be honest," he explains. "I still don't consider myself to be an entrepreneur. I'm somebody who set up a website and I consider myself to be a journalist and consumer campaigner." This week, Martin helps customers reclaim lost cash after switching energy suppliers. He also reveals how companies don't have to give this money back unless they are asked. Plus, the eponymous host reveals how to buy high-street fashion abroad, take a budget flight back to the UK and still make a saving.

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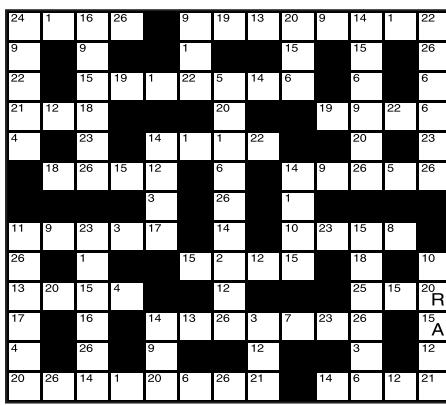
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Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	S	2	Y	3	D	4	M	5	V	6	C	7	R	8	H	9	K	10	Q	11	F	12	U	13	N
14	E	15	A	16	T	17	X	18	O	19	G	20	B	21	P	22	J	23	Z	24	W	25	L	26	I

Quiz

- Name the famous showbiz parents of entertainer Liza Minnelli.
- In which city was Christopher Columbus born?
- Of which element is diamond a form?
- What was the name of Donald Campbell's record-breaking boats and cars?
- Of which ocean does the Kara Sea form a part?
- What was the first nuclear-powered submarine?
- Who, in 1956, was the first European Footballer of the Year?
- Which musical instrument evolved from the sackbut?
- To which family of birds do canaries and siskins belong?
- Who was the first English actor to be knighted?

Double Crossword

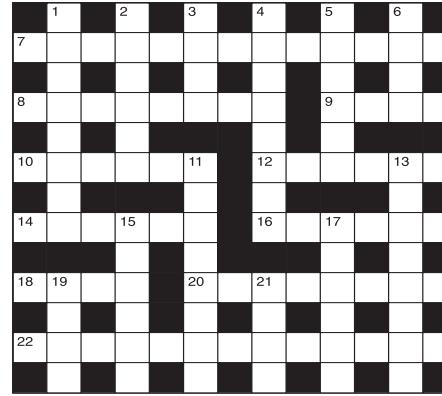
Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

Cryptic Clues:**Across**

- Very busy describing 22 Across perhaps (2,4,2,5)
- An ironclad excuse for not buying luxuries (8)
- They're neat! (4)
- Take off a garment I'd first put on back-to-front (6)
- Smart evergreen (6)
- On which many initial declarations of love have been made (4)
- Such games are not openly played (6)
- Ring again to cancel (6)
- It has caused many deaths in Vietnam (4)
- Pains grip sick Greek hero (8)
- It was frightful, as a rule! (5,2,6)

Down

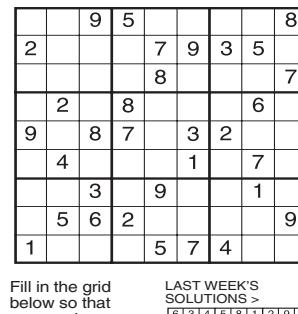
- Perform the state a monetary service (8)
- It's entertainment value is questionable (6)
- Become engaged in some sharp practice (4)
- He works so that others may play (8)
- Disturbance of increasing volume (6)
- On which many initial declarations of love have been made (4)
- He fights in the ring (8)
- Does she preach no involvement? (8)
- Royal house that is divided internally, naturally (6)
- Comrade has an attempt not worth considering (6)
- Not now the capital of Norway (4)
- Has old fashioned style (4)

**Quick Clues:****Across**

- Speedily (13)
- Lees (8)
- Cistern (4)
- Crash (4-2)
- Royal house that is divided internally, naturally (6)
- Comrade has an attempt not worth considering (6)
- Pains grip sick Greek hero (8)
- It was frightful, as a rule! (5,2,6)
- He fights in the ring (8)
- Does she preach no involvement? (8)
- Comrade has an attempt not worth considering (6)
- Not now the capital of Norway (4)
- Has old fashioned style (4)
- Move unsteadily (6)
- Snatch (4)
- Innate (8)
- Stupidity (13)

Down

- Outside (8)
- Yearn for (6)
- Dreadful (4)
- Despot (8)
- Assemble (6)
- Schema (4)
- Bodily (8)
- Monotony (8)
- Move unsteadily (6)
- Powerful (6)
- Space (4)
- Conceal (4)

Sudoku

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

6	3	4	5	8	1	2	9	7
5	8	7	2	3	9	4	1	6
2	1	9	6	4	7	5	8	3
7	5	3	4	1	8	9	6	2
1	9	2	3	7	6	8	4	5
8	4	6	9	2	5	7	3	1
3	2	8	1	5	4	6	7	9
9	7	5	8	6	3	1	2	4
4	6	1	7	9	2	3	5	8

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Isis; 8 Conviction; 9 Drawback; 10 Magi; 12 Befell; 14 Please; 15 Dimple; 17 Theory; 18 Ages; 19 Bulletin; 21 Oppressors; 22 Eats; Down: 2 Shorten; 3 Scow; 4 On call; 5 Pick up; 6 Shredder; 7 Anti; 8 Graftright; 13 Export; 16 Emboss; 17 Tallow; 18 Awe; 20 Ease; QUICK - Across: 1 Seem; 8 Answer back; 9 Babyhood; 10 Camel; 12 Cajole; 14 Deride; 15 Billow; 17 Modern; 18 Snug; 19 Contrite; 21 Counteract; 22 Aunt; Down: 2 Excavation; 3 Many; 4 Ashore; 5 Needed; 6 Obscured; 7 Skip; 11 Moderation; 13 Obliging; 16 Wicked; 17 Manual; 18 Sick; 20 Rota.

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

4823 gives a wild animal,
7851239 gives another wild animal,
26389278 gives a dog.

**Last week's solutions:**

Quiz: 1 Collie; 2 Colette; 3 Scottish; 4

Storm petrel; 5 Inner Hebrides; 6 Lulu; 7

Munich; 8 George II; 9 Gary Mabbutt; 10

William Randolph Hearst.

Niner: POLICEMAN



We've listened

Your local **Dudley & Wyre Forest edition** has returned on Saturday

We have listened to reader feedback and reintroduced the Express & Star Dudley & Wyre Forest edition on Saturday. You will notice significant improvements. Whilst retaining the 'Weekend' supplement, we have also included lots more local news, views and sports coverage.

Get the Express & Star delivered six nights for only £1.50 per week*, call Freephone 0800 146 540 quoting reference: Rover

Prime location near village for family home



A DETACHED family residence in Gospel End Road, Sedgley, is within walking distance of the village centre.

It is for sale through Swinscoes at £249,950 with no chain. The property represents excellent value and offers flexible living space with accommodation comprising entrance hallway, lounge, an open plan and recently fitted dining kitchen, utility room, play room/sitting room and downstairs WC on the ground floor. On the first floor there are four bedrooms, two en suite shower rooms and a bathroom.

For further information contact Swinscoes on 01902 672274 or visit the website at www.swinscoes.co.uk



This traditional semi has lovely views of parkland



IN A PEACEFUL position, this traditional-style semi-detached home in Monument Avenue, Wollescote, in Stourbridge, has superb distant views over Stevens Park to the rear.

It is for sale through Jon Stanier at £179,950.

Having gas central heating and double glazing and stripped pine doors, this three-bedroomed property also has a white bathroom suite with a separate shower cubicle.

There is a hall, lounge, dining room, lobby, WC, kitchen with separate dining area and patio door, and there is a cellar.

An elevated terrace with has delightful parkland views and steps down to a garden.

Call the agents on (01384) 77877 or visit www.jonstanier.co.uk website.



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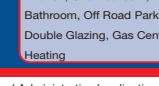


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Hot hatch is a crazy riot

By James Parker

Take one Fiat 500, add a crazy turbocharged engine, spicy bodykit and wait for the fireworks. Fiat's evergreen 500 has been turned into a fire-breathing hot hatch before by legendary firm Abarth, but the latest version is now a permanent addition to the range.

Available in semi-sensible Turismo or the 100 per cent barney Competizione guise tested here, the Abarth 500 is not for the faint of heart.

There's a turbocharged 1.4-litre petrol unit up front that offers a healthy 158bhp but more significantly 170lb.ft of torque. The exterior wears a seriously tough bod-

ikit and gorgeous alloy wheel options, while there's stiffer suspension and uprated brakes too. There's some interesting touches inside too, such as the attractive metal-tipped gearlever.

It's hard not to love the Abarth 500's looks, even though from some angles it is almost comically pumped up.

From a rational point of view, it has the proportions of a roller-skate, with a short wheelbase, big wheels and a minimal ride height, but it just makes you want to get in and drive it.

Any notion that the standard 500 is a car 'just for girls' is dismissed in a flash when it's turned into an Abarth. Those in the know recognise the badge and those that don't are intrigued.

Don't forget that the Abarth is still a city car, however much its transformation has rendered it better suited to the open road.



'Drive the 595 in the manner it deserves and you'll revel in the gloriously torquey engine, the raucous exhaust note and the way in which it dives into bends.'

So up front there is a respectable amount of space for adults but the driving position is better suited to those under six feet in height. In the rear it's kids or adults who are willing, rather than pure luxury.

This particular 595 had the optional leather bucket seats, which are terrifically supportive and look superb. In fact it's very easy to be carried away with the options list, especially when the end result is so much fun.

Drive the 595 in the manner it deserves and you'll revel in the gloriously torquey engine, the raucous exhaust note and the way in which it dives into bends with

limitless enthusiasm. It's a car that works best when you chuck it about rather than use a delicate hand. Do so and it's a complete riot, as well as remarkably quick. Turn down the wick and it's a little more like hard work. The great handling comes from the stiff suspension which means bumps are

There's actually quite a bit of competition at this price level, and on the one hand the 595 Competizione is far from cheap.

However, it does come with a lot of kit too; items like Xenon headlights and the glorious exhaust system are all standard.

Go mad with the options list and you can break the £20k mark.



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The above fuel consumption figures are based on EU test for comparative purposes only and may not reflect real driving results. *Model shown: Swift SZ4 available from £12,199 (Metallic paint available at £130). *VAT free offer on Swift range: Swift 1.2 SZ2 3dr available from £8,999, including a customer saving of £1,800 and VAT equivalent reduction of £1,699. *VAT free offer on Swift Sport: Swift 1.2 SZ4 3dr available from £10,495 (Metallic paint available at £130). *VAT free offer on SX4 range: SX4 1.6 SZ5 4x4 available from £12,499 (Metallic paint available at £130). *VAT free offer on SX4 range: SX4 1.6 SZ5 4x4 available from £10,495 (Metallic paint available at £130). *Model shown: SX4 1.6 SZ5 4x4 available from £12,499 (Metallic paint available at £130). *Model shown: Splash SZ4 available from £7,999, including a customer saving of £2,129 equivalent to VAT amount of previous on the road price of £9,599 (SZ2) and £12,774 (SZ4 A/T). *Model shown: Splash 1.0 SZ2 available from £7,999 (Metallic paint available at £130). *VAT free offer on Splash range: Splash 1.0 SZ2 available from £7,999 (Metallic paint available at £130). *VAT free offer on Alto range: Alto 1.0 SZ2 available from £5,999, including a customer saving of £1,200 and VAT equivalent reduction of £1,625 including customer saving of £2,129 equivalent to VAT amount of previous on the road price of £7,199 (SZ2) and £10,349 (SZ4 A/T). *VAT equivalent reduction is not available on vehicle options or accessories. VAT free offer excludes Swift Sport. For full details contact your local participating Suzuki Dealer. Offer subject to availability for vehicles privately registered between 1st October 2014 to 31st December 2014 from participating Authorised Suzuki Dealers only. Offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other offers. All prices and specifications correct at time of going to print.

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Super luxury car returns

It may have disappeared with a whimper but Mercedes has announced it's reintroducing its super-luxury Maybach nameplate next year.

In the face of modest sales and stiff competition from the likes of Bentley and Rolls-Royce, Mercedes' first attempt at reintroducing the premium historic marque wasn't the success

the German firm had hoped for. This time around, and helped by a newer, more accomplished base model S-Class platform to work with, Mercedes is promising levels of luxury and performance not seen from the brand for some time.

Now positioned as a sub-brand and no longer a standalone marque, industry insiders are expecting Mercedes to roll out extra long wheelbase versions

of the S-Class reminiscent of the firm's iconic Pullman variants from the past.

There's no word yet on price, but with the regular range-topping S-Class easily breaking the £100,000 barrier, don't expect too much change from twice that once you've factored in the all-important cost options.

More details – and the all-important car – are expected to be revealed later this year ahead of a 2015 launch.

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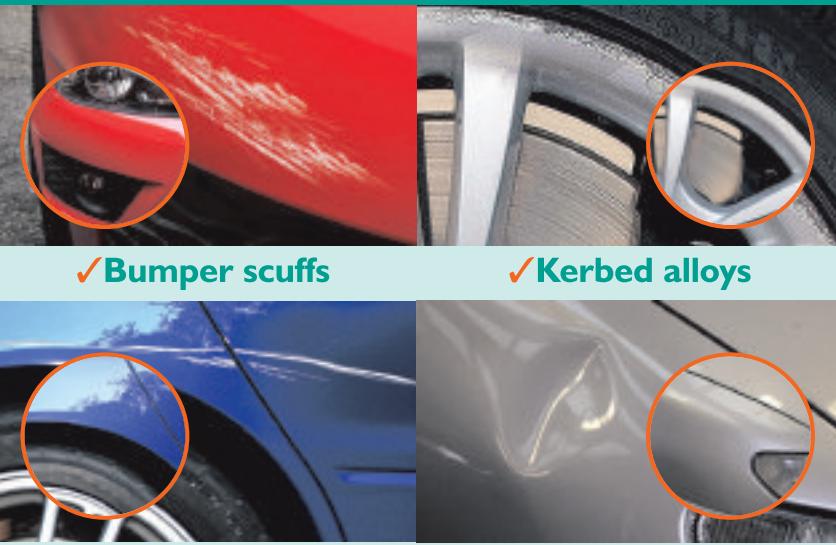
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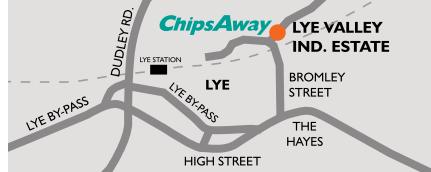
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DRIVETIME



Tesla now in the Midlands

Electric car maker Tesla continues its expansion in the UK with the launch of a new West Midlands-based store and six 'Supercharger' recharging points.

A five-minute drive from A45 and A38, the Tesla Birmingham retail and service centre in Digbeth is the firm's fourth UK store.

By the end of 2014, customers will be able to visit Tesla stores and service centres across the country. The

company is currently recruiting for upcoming sales and service facilities in Manchester, Bristol, Newcastle and Edinburgh.

The company also continues to expand its charging network, with six Supercharging sites now open.

In London, three new Supercharging sites at Canary Wharf, Tower Bridge and Westfield White City add to locations at Portman Square and Royal Victoria Docks.

As well as Tesla's existing site in Birmingham, the company has added

Reading, Bristol and Edinburgh to its network. Within the next six months, the company claims Model S drivers will be able to drive the length of the UK relying only on Superchargers.

Commenting on the company's progress, Georg Ell, Tesla's country director for the UK and Ireland, said: "We are working on additional London locations with new sites to be announced shortly. Our plan for routes around the UK is also under way and we now have four locations outside of the capital."

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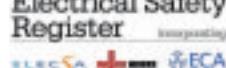
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ATTRACTIVE slim brunette, 47, N/S, seeks tall, slim male for a cut above the average relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412725

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KAREN pretty blonde, short in stature, big personality, keeps fit, loves dogs, seeking honest, caring male who can make me laugh. Nothing too serious just fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412359

SALLY, 38yrs, large cuddly lady seeks slim men for discreet meetings. Text Only 4550193

JEAN petite female who enjoys golf, days out, cosy evenings in, holidays. WLTM older male in his 60's with a good personality and big heart. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412359

TRUDY 36yrs, wltm broadminded men of any age/area for daytime meetings. Text Only 4550194

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SARA bored blonde looking for single gents for fun, chats and meets, looking forward to hearing from you, don't be shy. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412055

EMMA petite young looking 31yr old attractive single Brunette, loves walking, talking, music, seeks honest romantic 30-40yrs. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412037

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PAUL 62, sees attractive Wolverhampton lady for discreet daytime fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411099

TRUSTWORTHY fit, active, caring, easy going male, N/S, GSOC, seeks genuine lady, 59-72 for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411083

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TONY 52, dark hair, white male, 6ft, confident, GSOC, seeks black female. Genuine ad. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412481

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JENNY single independent attractive lady, tall and leggy, sensible and looking for very special male friend. Only genuine callers pls. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408639

MIXED raced lady, 34, widely travelled, seeking gent, 30-40 for romance. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408429

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PAUL 62, seeks attractive Wolverhampton lady for discreet daytime fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410799

ATTRACTIVE tall, dark, professional male, broadminded, adventurous, clean, discreet, GSOC, easy going, good company, looking for lady for fun times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410119

JEFF 35, GSOC, likes cinema, swimming, ice skating, seeking special female with similar interests. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410737

CHRIS 32, 5ft 10ins, brown hair, blue eyes, open minded, looking for female for discreet strings fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410643

BROADMINDED professional, tall, dark male, easy going, GSOC, seeking female with GSOC for fun, friendship and relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410703

PAUL 67, 5ft 7ins, fit, genuine, enjoys most things, likes a laugh, seeking similar female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410655

5FT 10ins male, brown hair, blue eyes, seeks female, 40 plus for daytime fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410589

DIVORCED male, young, fit 50, generous, own business, seeks male, any nationality, 18-20 for good times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412728

45 year old gay guy, sincere, caring, honest, loving looking for a sincere guy 40 to 50 years old. Text Only Mailbox Box No: 442335

MALE 40's, discreet, seeks black male, under 30 for fun and friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412415

YOUNG male, 25, educated, likes arts, dogs, travel, classic cars, comedy, seeks similar older male for LTR. London/Shropshire anywhere. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412463

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Giles is winner of run in Cotswolds

STOURBRIDGE Running Club had three runners from the club competing in the Cotswolds' Broadway Marathon.

Starting and finishing in the scenic Broadway village, the 26-mile route followed a trail or unpaved track.

Matt Giles won the race with a fantastic time of 3:23.40.

He was closely followed by team mate Garry Griffiths who finished in fifth place with a time of 3:42.25 and Duncan Cornish (16th) 4:07.06.

In the recent Droitwich Half Marathon we had two runners from the club who competed.

Chris Blake finished 18th place with a time of 1:26.51 and Paul Bradley finished 144nd with a time of 1:48.17. Also, the cross country season is well under way.

A recent race at Midland Counties Cross Country - held at Aldersley, Wolverhampton, resulted in the ladies team getting eighth place and the men's team 16th place. Joan Clarke took the lead for the ladies running five miles and finished in 32nd place, while the men who ran seven miles were headed up by Duncan Cornish. The next race is in Aldridge on December 6.

Certainly not Nirvana for Gornal

Thurnby Nirvana 4
Gornal 1

GORNAL'S hopes of a good FA Vase run vanished as they lost 4-1 to inform United Counties side Thurnby Nirvana.

Despite a promising start, Athletic found themselves a goal down on eight minutes when Eddy Samba beat keeper Rich Kennedy at the second attempt.

Gornal's Tim Piggott spurned a great chance to equalise before Thurnby doubled their lead on 31 minutes through Ashley Day.

The hosts made the game safe on 65 minutes through Reece Moore. Matt Melbourne then celebrated Thurnby's fourth before Geoff Hill's consolation.

Lions brought back down to earth

Bridgnorth 54 Stourbridge Lions 11

THE Lions travelled to Bridgnorth on Saturday with several key players missing, especially in the pack and lost 54-11.

There was no man of the match this time; it was a team effort that, before half-time, saw the Lions competing on level terms and at one stage even leading, causing the home side and their fans a great deal of concern.

The second half saw the Lions fade as many of the players tired under constant pressure.

Bridgnorth are the stand-out team in the league. They will, barring a fall-off in per-

Rugby

formance of earth-shattering proportions, be promoted very soon after Christmas.

This makes the first half efforts of a weakened Lions all the more praiseworthy.

Though they conceded four tries in the first half they scored one of their own. One of the best they have scored all season with a sweeping move from just outside the Lions 22 with a break by the half-backs Williams and Wilson carried on by Dews and a pass to send Chance on a thrilling 50 metre

sprint down the left touchline for a great try. Until the last five minutes of the half Lions were actually in contention, a couple of Wilson penalties at one point seeing the Lions 11-10 ahead.

Driving play by the forwards caused obvious frustration in the home ranks and it was only two mistakes, one a series of missed tackles down the Lions right and the other a ball mysteriously lost at the back of a ruck which saw Bridgnorth ahead by 20-11 at half-time.

The start of the second half saw a tiring Lions subjected to massive pressure. The

third quarter resulted in three tries and a conversion to leave the Lions, battered, bruised but won, 37-11 down.

Bridgnorth kept up the pressure and three more tries and a conversion saw them move further away.

A comprehensive defeat then, but one from which the Lions can take great heart. Although this was a team effort there must still be special mention of a few.

A young, relatively inexperienced front row gave as good as they got in both scrum and around the field.

Matt Poole had a fine game.

Stour breathe sigh of relief at missed kick

Birmingham & Solihull 23 Stourbridge 25

BEES looked set to snatch victory from the jaws of defeat, but Adam Canning's 79th minute, long-range penalty try fell short.

On a sticky surface the game swung between kicking contest and forward slugfest. Stour's key man fullback Caolan Ryan, who was solid under the high ball, cleared his lines effectively and coolly slotted four kicks at goal.

Stour's injury woes were back with a vengeance though, both lock forwards Ben Hughes and Robbie Hurrell failing to finish the game.

An early penalty opportunity was landed by Ryan, but Canning hit back twice to give the hosts a 6-3 lead after 20min as both sides probed the other's defences.

Nathan Bressington forced a lineout from which the visitors executed a neat catch and drive, Sione Tu'ipolotu the man to score from short range.

Bees dug deep, worked their way down field and returned the compliment with a catch and drive of their own through No.8 Steve Leach. Canning converted.

The lead lasted barely three minutes though, Ryan responding with a penalty.

Following an injury stoppage Stour secured their own ball near their 10metre line, but were bemused to find veteran Sturdy again penalised for not driving straight against a tighthead offering little by way of resistance.

He failed to find the target though with an early second half attempt, but redeemed himself with a nicely taken individual try when he seemed to leave the entire Stour shortsides defence wrongfooted in the mud.

With the clock ticking down Canning kicked at the posts, but it fell just short.

This Saturday Stour host Preston Grasshoppers, kick-off 3pm.



Lock forward Robbie Hurrell crosses to score Stourbridge's second try before going off injured

Irvine is to quiz player on tweet

ALBION boss Alan Irvine insists Youssouf Mulumbu will be back after the out-of-form midfielder was dropped from the Baggies squad for Saturday's defeat at Chelsea.

Irvine is planning to speak to Mulumbu over a cryptic pre-match tweet which appeared to poke fun at the decision to leave him out of the 18-man squad.

But the Hawthorns head coach, who also defended the decision to leave Silvestre Varela and Sebastian Blanco off the bench, believes Mulumbu will recapture his missing form.

"I thought he started the season really well," said Irvine.

"He was absolutely terrific and then unfortunately he got a hamstring injury while away on international duty and that's knocked him back a bit."

"I've got every faith that Youssouf will come again. He hasn't played so well since he came back from the injury but at the beginning of the season he was one of the first names on the teamsheet."

Mulumbu raised eyebrows by tweeting "In the stand loo...."

And Irvine is planning to ask him about his reaction.

DK women are out of the running

DUDLEY Kingswinford Running Club ran at the Midlands Counties Cross Country Open Meeting at Wolverhampton & Bilston's Aldershot Stadium.

In the women's event over a five mile course, Sally McConville took 55th place with 48.03, Lisa Newell was 61st in 49.20 and Meg Dowen finished in 51.44 for 64th position.

Unfortunately with four runners needed to score they were unable to record a team position as other members dropped out due to injury. In the team event Tipton Harriers won Wolverhampton & Bilston took silver and Northbrook AC bronze. In the men's seven mile event Ben Foster was 13th in 42.04.

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Lions lose
Squad reach a
Bridgnorth too far
Page 39

Miss kick
Stour hold on until
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Page 39



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Visting
Yeltz in
Trafford
shutout

Trafford 0 Halesowen 2
A professional performance gave Halesowen all three points in Manchester.

The opening chance came from Halesowen, as Danny Bragoli picked up the ball from the edge of the area, and smashed the ball towards goal, but Dan Wilczynski made a brilliant save to deny him.

Trafford had their chances as well in the first half, as captain forced Matt Sargeant into making a good save, and Mile Oates created a chance for himself but he could only blast the ball over the bar.

The Yeltz took the lead on 65 minutes, as Iyseid Christie slotted the ball through the Trafford defence to Kristian Green, who placed the ball into the net with power.

Halesowen doubled their lead in the final moments of the game, as Robert Thompson Brown made and individual run and ended it with comfortably placing the ball into the net.

The Yeltz move up the table once again, as their progress moves them up to 15th.

Halesowen: Sargeant, Green, Griffiths, Forde, Hull, Tilt, Kettle (Tonks), Bragoli (Mackenzie), Christie, Haseley (Thompson-Brown), Turner. Un-used Subs: Robinson, Lait

Letford goal is a winner

Dudley Sports 2
W-ton Casuals 1

TWO second-half goals in the space of five minutes earned Dudley Sports victory over Wolverhampton Casuals.

In a scrappy West Midlands Premier game, Casuals went ahead in the 23rd minute when Daniel Westbrook headed down an Angelo Franco cross for Scott Embrey to score from eight yards.

Just before the goal Lewis Cooper made a great run in to the Sports area only to see his shot well saved by Sports keeper Dominic Richards.

Sports equalised in the 79th minute when Oliver Staten volleyed a Luke Williams corner past Casuals keeper Steve Booth.

And the hosts' second goal came from Jonathan Letford when his effort went under Booth's body.

Jackett is looking to strengthen defence

KENNY JACKETT will scour the loan market this week in a bid to shore up Wolves' dodgy defence – but insists outcast Roger Johnson has not crossed his mind as a solution.

After Saturday's 3-0 home defeat to Nottingham Forest made it eight goals conceded in two games, boss Jackett is weighing up defensive reinforcement options.

The emergency loan window closes on Thursday and the head coach is far more likely to go down that route than consider offering an olive branch to Johnson.

Jackett said: "That (Johnson) is not

Football

something I have considered and I am very unlikely to think about that.

"We can do better internally. But you are always looking at the loan deadline on Thursday and then the January window to be able to turn things around if you need that option."

"It depends on who is available and what calibre of player you can bring in at present."

"But we do need to find an equation at the back that stops these goals going in

because we have gone from a very compact unit and being defensively very stringent to conceding some very poor goals."

Jackett insists the whole team must carry the can for the recent defensive woes – and wants more from his attackers too.

He added: "That's 10 goals against in three games, which is poor, and then only one scored – that's a big swing and it's something we need to address quickly."

"It's not a one-off situation now – we've conceded a lot of goals and I can't really look at my goalkeeper either in that period.

"As both a defence and as a team we need

to defend better and then going the other way we need to be a threat too."

Ethan Ebanks-Landell limped off with a hamstring problem against Forest and is a doubt for Saturday's trip to Brentford, but Scott Golbourne and Nouha Dicko could return.

Dicko faces a fight to regain his place after Jackett was impressed by Sunderland loan man Danny Graham's debut on Saturday.

Jackett added: "Danny worked very hard and I think he will get better with every game in terms of his fitness."

Tividale keep up the wins

Rainworth 1 Tividale 2

TIVIDALE continued their impressive away record with their fourth win on the road in a last-gasp success over Rainworth.

The first half was summed up with the fact neither keeper had a shot to save as both teams failed to create anything. The only incident of note was Rainworth skipper Emeka Nwadike having to go off with a cut under his eye.

Rainworth had the first effort on goal at the start of the second period when Charlie Price had to touch over a dipping free-kick from Theo Brown on 47 minutes.

That was the end of the action until the introduction of new Tividale signing Roland Agbor on the hour.

On 83 minutes he brilliantly back-heeled home a Danny Ashton cross to break the deadlock.

And in the second minute of injury time Agbor's right-wing cross was headed home at the back post by Leigh Downing.

Rainworth did get on the score sheet in the fifth minute of injury time when Brown made no mistake.

Freddie is back as Wolves rider

SPEEDWAY ace Freddie Lindgren set his sights on the play-offs after sealing a return to Wolves.

The popular 29-year-old Swede's return to Monmore, following a year away, was confirmed on Monday at the club's winter talk-in with fans. Lindgren first raced for Wolves in 2003 as a 17-year-old.

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BUMPER CROWD ENJOY VICTORY

Stourbridge 2 FC Utd Manchester 1

THE first meeting between these two saw Stourbridge deservedly end on top in front of a bumper crowd of 1,444.

It was the first four-figure crowd for a league fixture at the War Memorial ground since February 1991, when 1,003 saw Stour beat Tamworth 2-0.

The Glassboys had to weather some early pressure but were strong at the back and looked dangerous on the break.

Early on there were few chances to get on the score board, however, Craig Lindfield went closest for the visitors when he sent a shot wide of the mark.

But on 27 minutes Stourbridge took hold of the game and grabbed the lead when George Bowerman ran down the left and then put the ball inside for Kayelden Brown who shot into the corner of the net.

Effort

Kristian Ramsey-Dickson had an effort ruled out for offside on 33 minutes but six minutes later he picked up a flick-on from a goal kick and produced a great finish to make it 2-0.

Former Ajax youngster Frank Van Gills should have got one back for United just before the break when he headed wide in front of an open goal.

But Stourbridge almost scored with a header of their own into the second half when Paul McCone got on the end of a Bowerman cross but missed the target.

Inevitably the visitors put

pressure on as the half progressed. And it was on 70 minutes that Stourbridge goalkeeper Dean Coleman produced an excellent save from a Greg Daniels shot that to all intents and purposes was heading for the top corner for a score.

FC United did get a goal back nine minutes from time when Van Gils skipped past two defenders on the edge of the box and crossed low for Thomas Greaves.

Greaves, who was making his 100th appearance for FC United, made no mistake with his finishing and set up a nail-biting few final few minutes for the Glassboys.

The result lifts Stourbridge up two places to be in 11th place in the Evo-Stik Premier Division, just four points off the play-off places and with matches in hand on all the teams above them.

Stourbridge: Coley; Fitzpatrick; Ramsey-Dickson; Bson; McCone; Till (Morgan-Parker 84); Brown (Smiley 65); Haynes; Geohagan; Bowerman (Broadhurst 82); Canavan; Knight.

Subs not used: McPike; Hill



Kristian Ramsey-Dickson celebrates after slotting home the second Stourbridge goal. Picture Will Kilpatrick

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